

given

STORY AND ART BY
NATSUKI KIZU.

1







Given

Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

volume **1**

CONTENTS

Chapter 1	003
Chapter 2	031
Chapter 3	063
Chapter 4	083
Chapter 5	117
Chapter 6	147
Character Profiles	28 • 60 • 144 • 182
Part-Time Job 1	185
Part-Time Job 2	186
Music and Friendship	187
Questions for the Band	188
Immunity	189
Little Brother Power	190
Postscript	191



given

VOLUME 1

NATSUKI KIZU



chapter 1
given



I KEEP
HAVING...

...THE
SAME
DREAM.

OVER
AND...

...OVER
AGAIN.



given

chapter 1





AND
I CAN
TAKE
A NICE,
LONG...

...

RECENTLY
I FOUND
THIS
SECRET
SPOT NO
ONE KNOWS
ABOUT.

A
napping
spot...

sleepy

shuf!

Aren't
you
gonna
play?!

bap

sqk

IF I
GO
THERE
...

...NO
ONE WILL
FIND ME.
IT'LL BE
SUNNY
AND
WARM.

yawn

tmp

tmp







IF YOU
DON'T EVEN
KNOW HOW
TO TAKE CARE
OF IT, WHY
DO YOU HAVE
A GIBSON
SEMI—

NO
WONDER
THEY'RE
BREAKING.
WHY DON'T
YOU FIX
'EM?

THOSE
STRINGS
ARE
RUSTED
TO HELL!



WH—
WHOA
?!

stare

TOO
CLOSE!



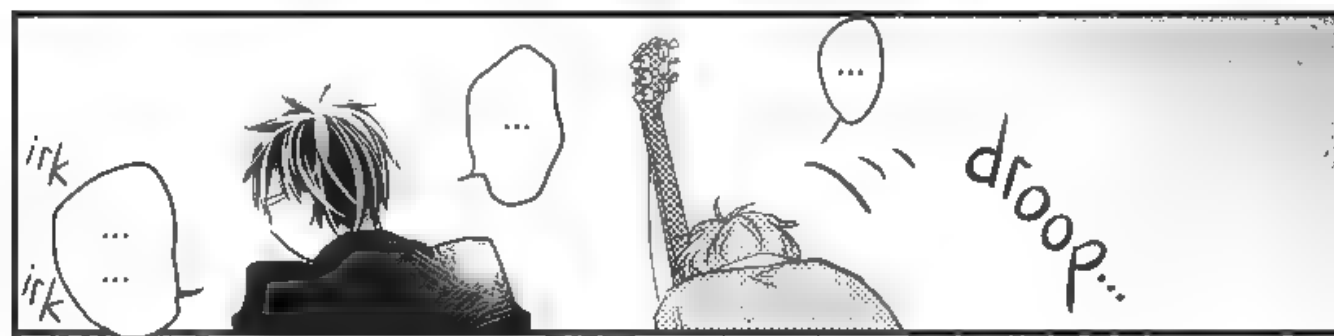
THIS
...

...CAN
BE
FIXED?!

twng

WHAT...

UH...









WITHOUT
KNOWING
IT...

HUH?

UM!!

...THE
MOMENT
I
STRUCK
THAT
CHORD...

GRAB



PLEASE
...
TEACH
ME
HOW
TO
PLAY!



...
ECHOED
DEEP
IN HIS
HEART.

A
SOUND
THAT...



...I
HAD
ALSO
...

...STRUCK
HIS
HEART-
STRINGS.

...THAT
WAS WHEN
MY WORLD
BEGAN
CHANGING
MORE
RAPIDLY
THAN I
COULD'VE
IMAGINED.



I still
gotta
tune
it..

Uh

ADVANCE!

RETREAT!

WHEN
I THINK
BACK
ON IT
NOW...

BUT BACK
THEN,
I DIDN'T
HAVE A
SINGLE
CLUE
WHAT WAS
TO COME.

I
STARTED
PLAYING
GUITAR
WHEN I
WAS IN
SIXTH
GRADE.

MAINLY
BECAUSE
THAT WAS
WHEN DAD
GAVE ME
HIS OLD
ONE.





AND
SO...

...BY THE
TIME I
STARTED
HIGH
SCHOOL
...



BUT I HAVE
THE TYPE OF
PERSONALITY
WHERE
IF I CAN'T DO
SOMETHING
THE WAY I
WANT TO,
I CAN'T LET
IT GO.



I
BECAME
COMPLETELY
OBSESSED
WITH
MUSIC.



....I
COULD
PLAY
WHATEVER
I
WANTED...

....AND
HAVE IT
SOUND
JUST
LIKE I
IMAGINED
IN MY
HEAD.

BUT
THEN
SOME-
THING
STRANGE
HAP-
PENED.

THE
BETTER
I GOT,
AND THE
MORE
AND MORE
MUSIC
I COULD
PLAY...



"THIS..."

"...CAN
BE
FIXED?!"



...THE
LESS
AND
LESS
EXCITED
I WAS
BY ANY
OF IT.

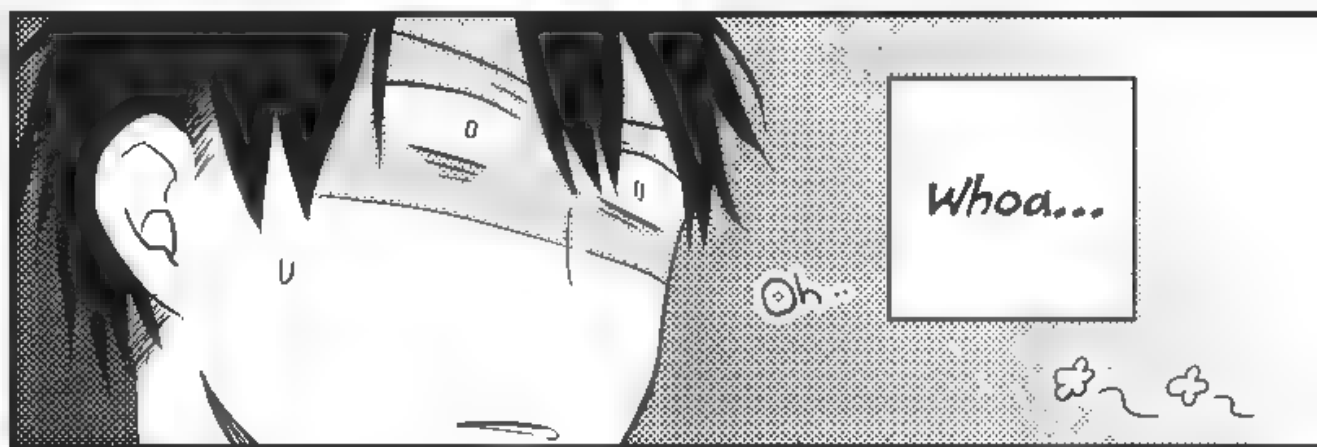


...
WHEN
I THINK
BACK
ON IT...

THE
FIRST TIME
I BROKE
A STRING,
I THOUGHT
I BROKE
THE GUITAR.
I ALMOST
STARTED
CRYING.

















Mafuyu Sato (16)

173 cm

(Second-year high school student)
Still growing

Birthday: 2/28 Sign: Pisces Blood Type: AB

Vocals & Guitar → Gibson ES-330 (red)

I haven't decided on a lot
of his music things yet.
All he knows about music is
what he's learned in school.

Favorite Music: Unknown

Not a member of any clubs
in middle school or high school.
Good at studying. Doesn't do
horribly in science classes.

Family: Mother



Hair Style:
Tucks hair behind ear

Eyebrows:
Slanted up towards
the middle.
Gives him a
bewildered look.

Hair Details:
Light brown,
flyaway

Eyes:
Slightly almond
shaped

Mouth:

Upper lip is M-shaped.

Sloping shoulders



Hair length
from the
back

His face is
like this.



Eyes and mouth are
always half-open.

Slightly
hunched
posture

given

by Natsuki Kizu

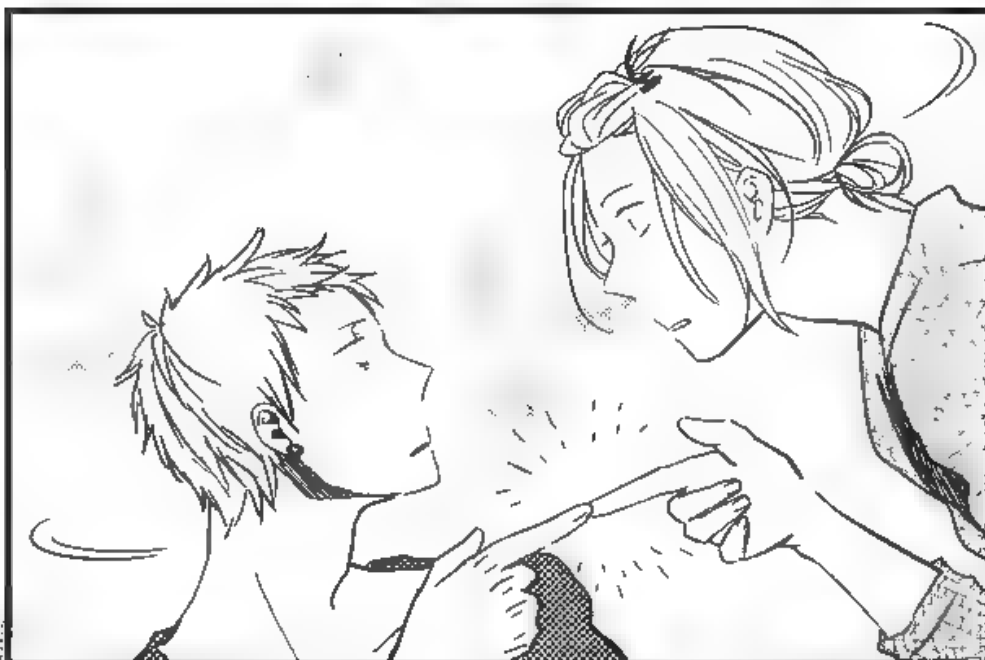
chapter 2

given





MY
NAME IS
MAFLUYU
SATO.
I'M HERE
TO WATCH
AND
LEARN.



LEARN?
?

WATCH?
?



YUP,
GOTTA
TEACH
THE
YOUNG.

WE'LL
SHOW
HIM
HOW
IT'S
DONE.



STARRY
EYED

HE'S PROBABLY
EXPECTING US TO
PLAY LIKE WE'RE
GODS OF ROCK!!

jab



KAJI,
YOU'RE
OKAY
WITH
THIS?!

YA.

WHY
NOT?

HE
KNOWS
NOTHING
ABOUT
MUSIC!



whoosh



nod...



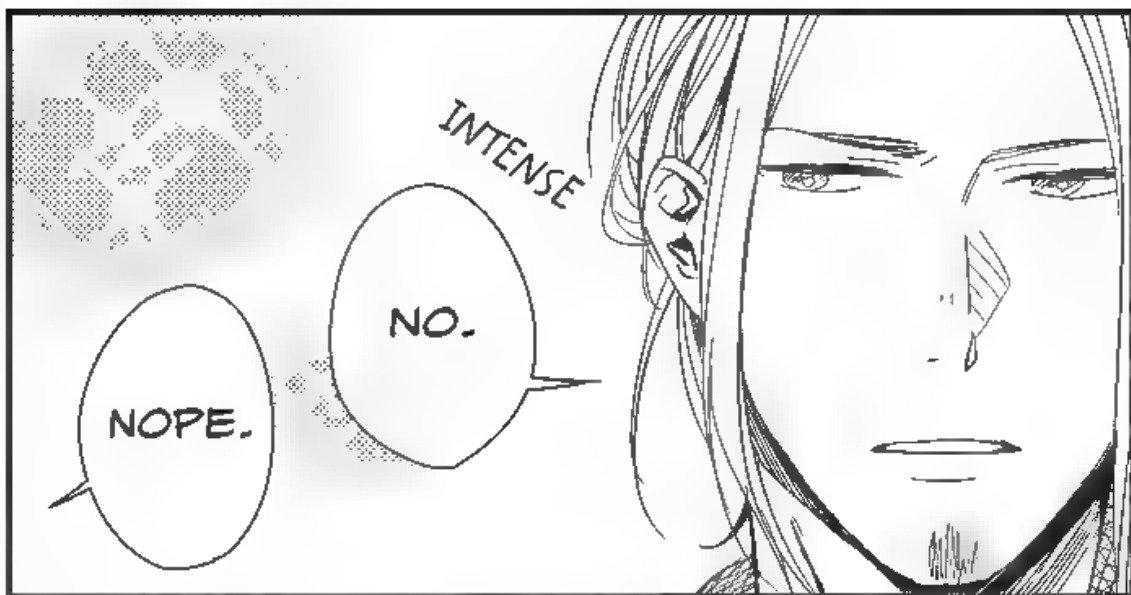
FLASH

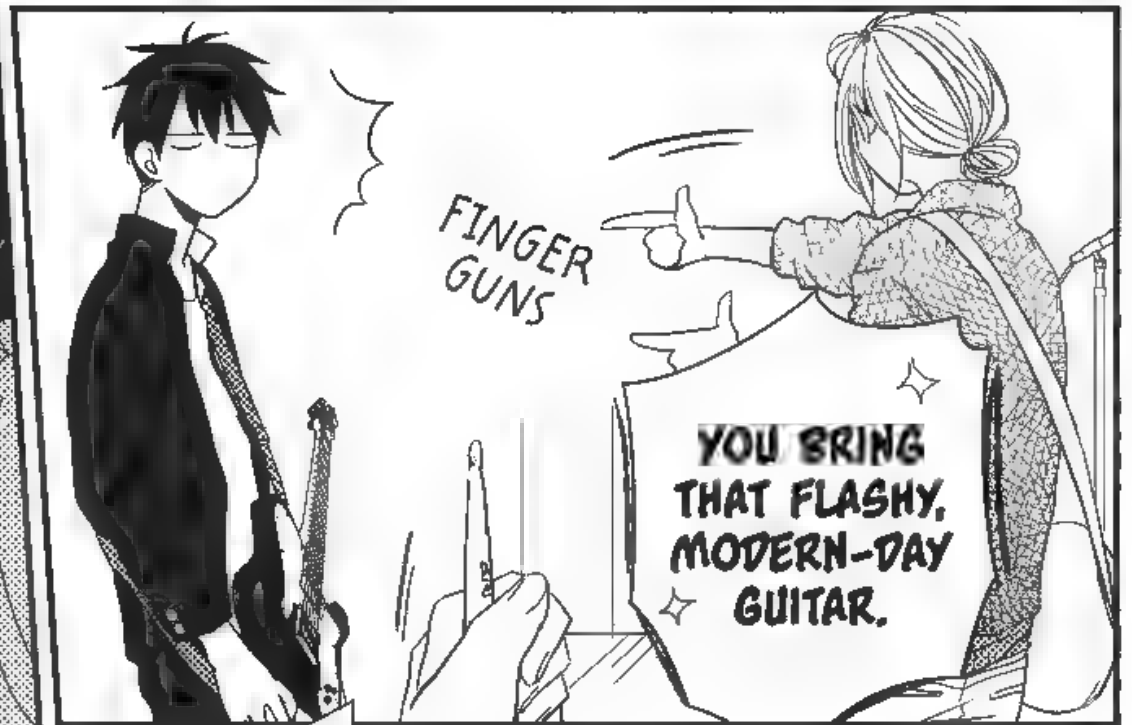
THE
LONGER
WE KEEP
THIS UP,
THE HIGHER
HIS
EXPECTA-
TIONS
WILL GO!

WOULD
YOU GUYS
PLEASE
STOP
TRYING
TO ACT
COOL?

HEY
MAN,
WHAT'RE
YOU
SPACING
OUT FOR?
SAY
SOME-
THING!

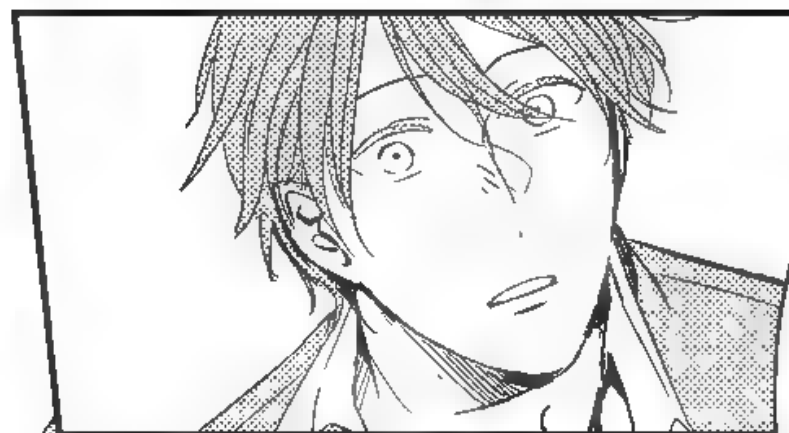
* Japanese singer known for the 1957 song "Arashi wo Yobu Otoko" (The Man Who Kicks Up a Storm).







WELL,
THAT'S
A REAL
SPECIFIC
REQUEST.



...

S...

sparkle
☆

SOME-
THING..

...
COOL!

☆
sparkle







D.N.W.

DAH
DE
DE
DAH!

DAH
DE
DA!

tap

tap

jang

!

!

D.N.W.

!













YOU'RE
LATE.

V
A
V
O
O
M



OH...

SORRY.

Really?



POINK!

FREEZER.
GO MAKE
IT.



WAY TO SET
AN EXAMPLE
AS AN OLDER
SIBLING.
WHY'RE
YOU LYING
AROUND
IN YOUR
UNDER-
WEAR?

Ugh...

I WAS
WAITING
FOR YOU
TO MAKE
THE
PIZZA.



IT'S JUST...





THERE'S
NO WAY
I COULD
TEACH
A TOTAL
BEGINNER
HOW TO
PLAY
GUITAR.

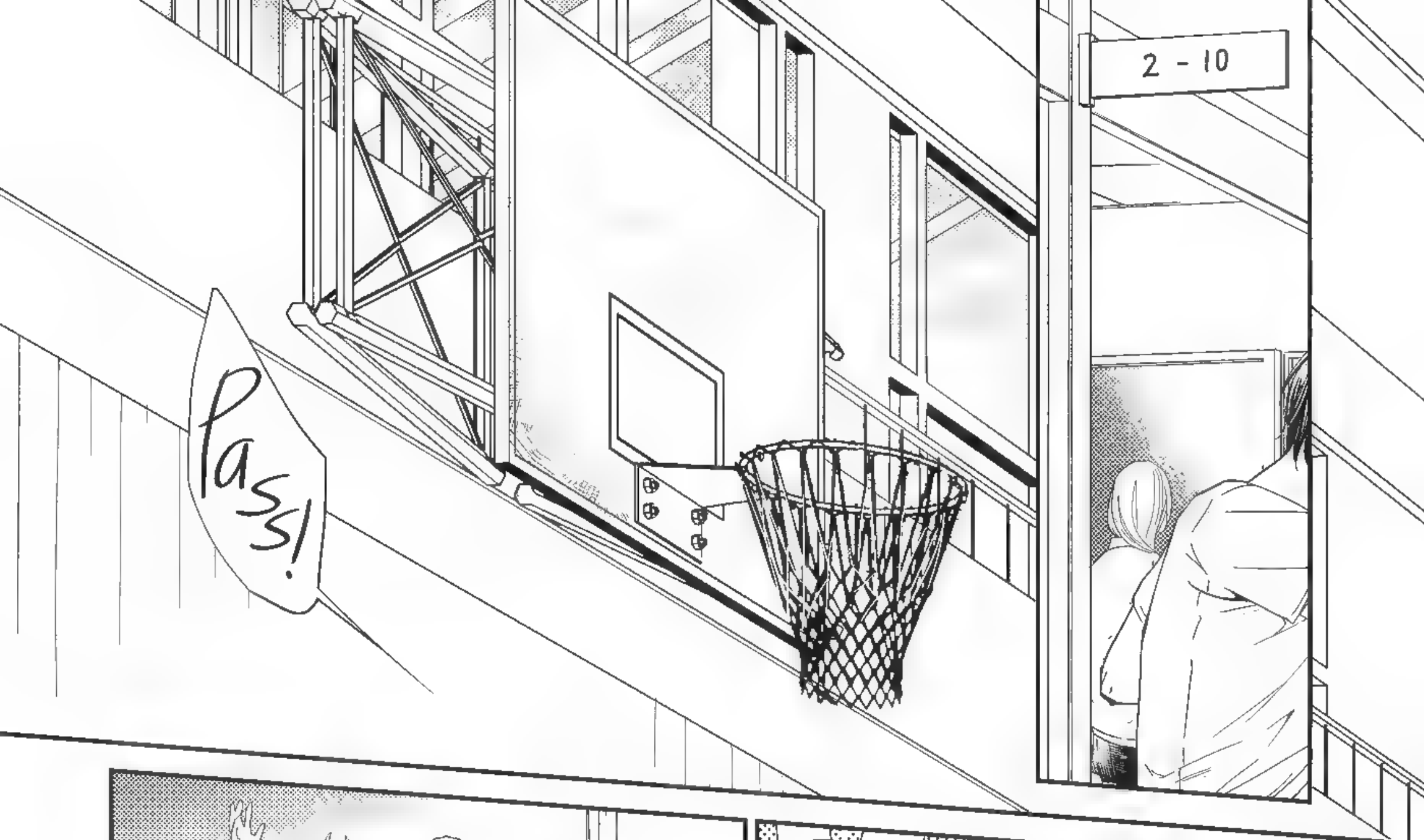
IT'D
BE WAY
TOO
MUCH
RESPON-
SIBILITY.

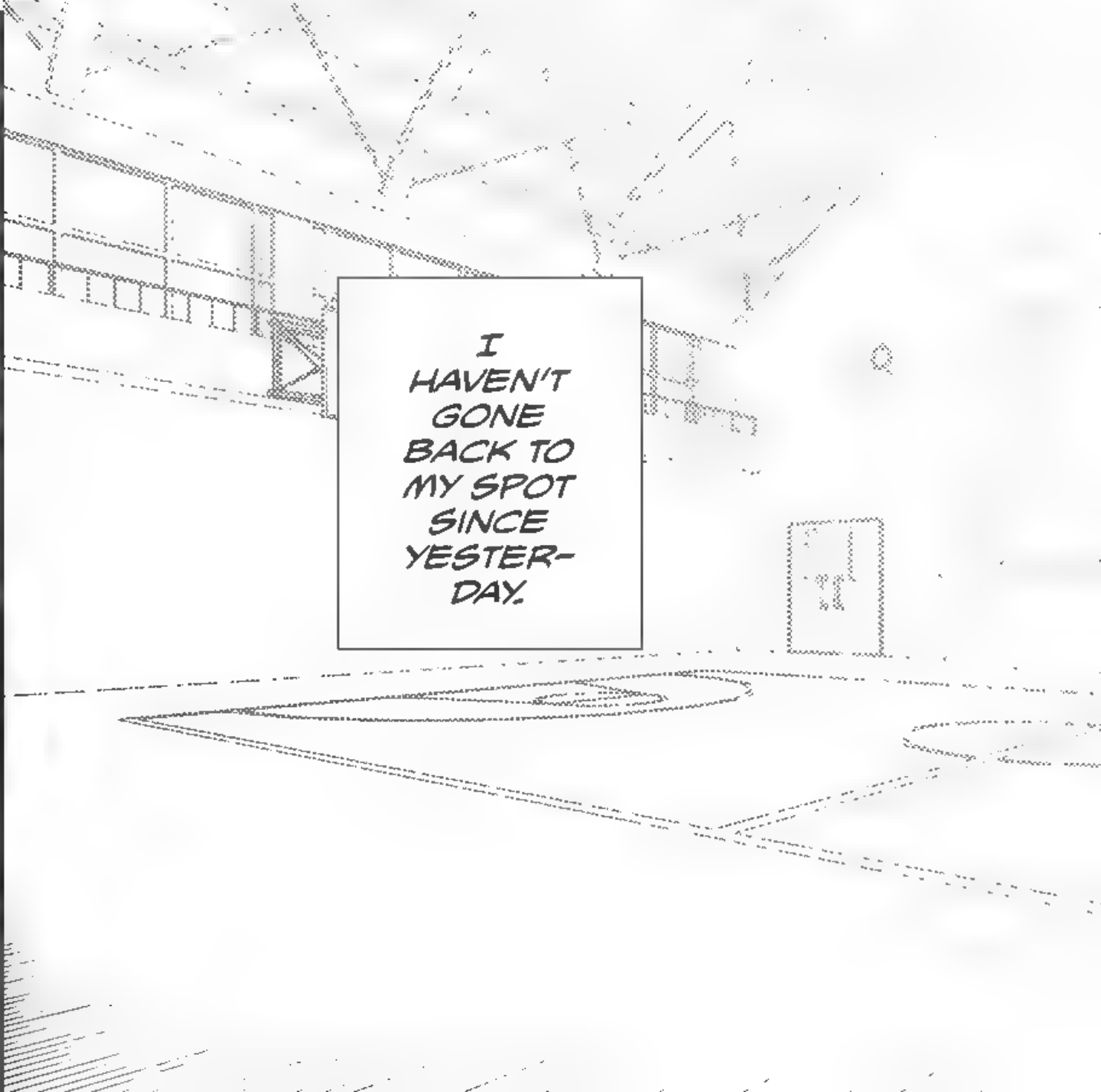


BUT I
WONDER
...

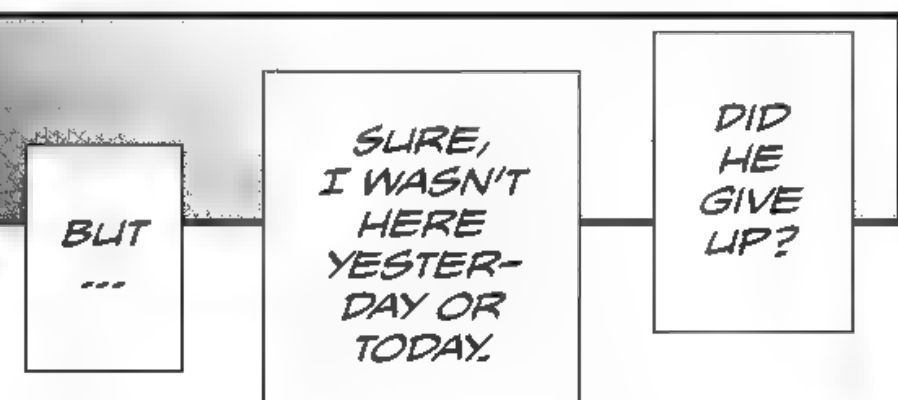


BACK THEN,
DID I HAVE
THE SAME
LOOK IN
MY EYES
THAT HE
DOES NOW?











HUH.
THAT'S
TOUGH.

WHAT WAS
HIS NAME?
SATO OR
TAKAHASHI
OR SUZUKI
OR SOME-
THING?

IT'S
SATO.

HUH,
WHY?

I THINK
IT'D
BE GOOD
FOR YOU,
MAYBE
INSPIRE YOU
SOMEHOW.

YOU
SHOULD
HELP
HIM.

WHY
?

CUZ

WHEN
WE
WERE
JAM-
MING

...YOU
WERE
SUPER
INTO IT.
YOU
LOOKED
EXCITED
TO PLAY.



ANYWAY,
LET'S
GET TO
THE
STUDIO.

YOU
GOTTA
BE
KIDDING
ME...



WHAT?
ME?



IS THAT
REALLY
WHAT I
LOOKED
LIKE?!



Look,
Mafuyu
came
back!

I
found
him
sitting
in front
of the
studio
...

...so
I let
him
in.

OH,
YEAH.
AKIHIKO,
DID YOU
GET ME
THE ICED
TEA I
TEXTED
YOU
FOR?



Hi,
guys!
♡

Oh.

SORRY,
WE GOT
HELD
UP AT
WOR...

'SUP.

Ha
ha!

Ah!



HEY,
WANNA SEE
SOMETHING
COOL,
UECCHI?
CHECK
THIS
OUT.

tug



ROTOR

Y-Y-Y-
YOU..!

WH-
WHA
..?!

GRAB

Uenoyama...

Pomer

anion

trmb! trmb!

CHILL
OUT!



HAH
?!

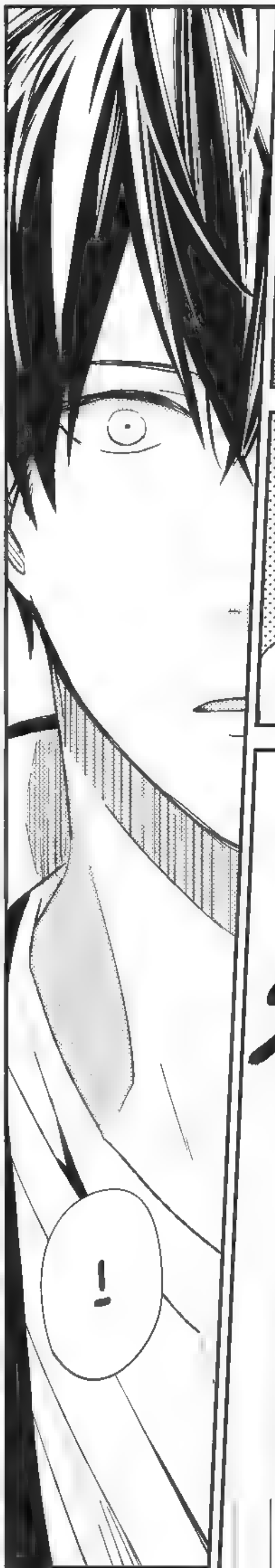


I,
UM...

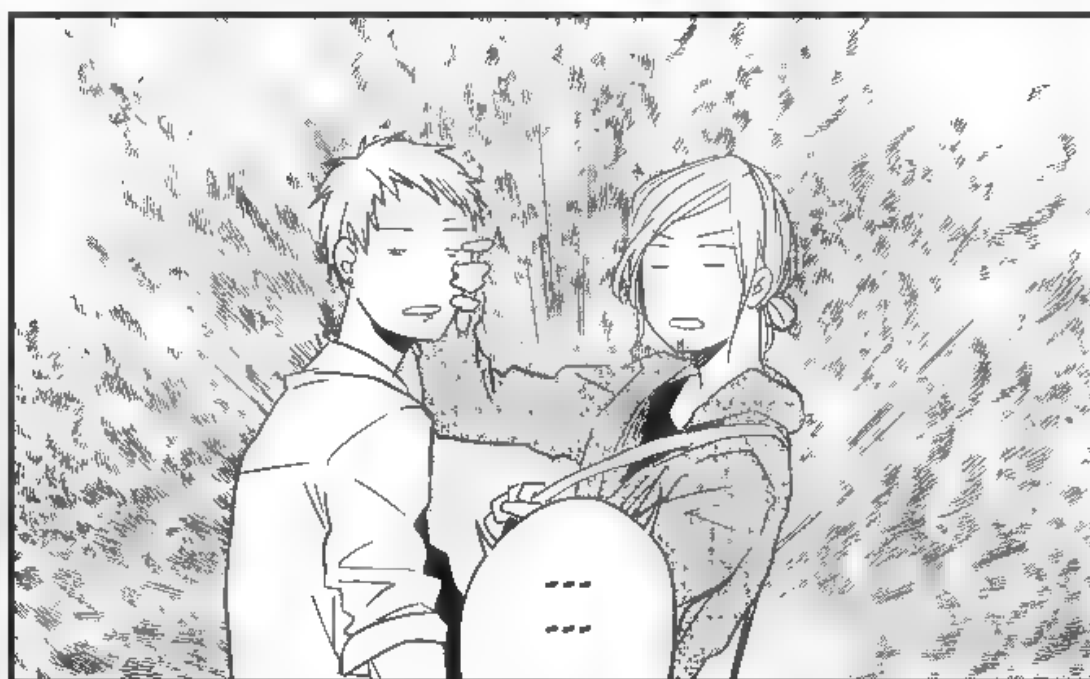
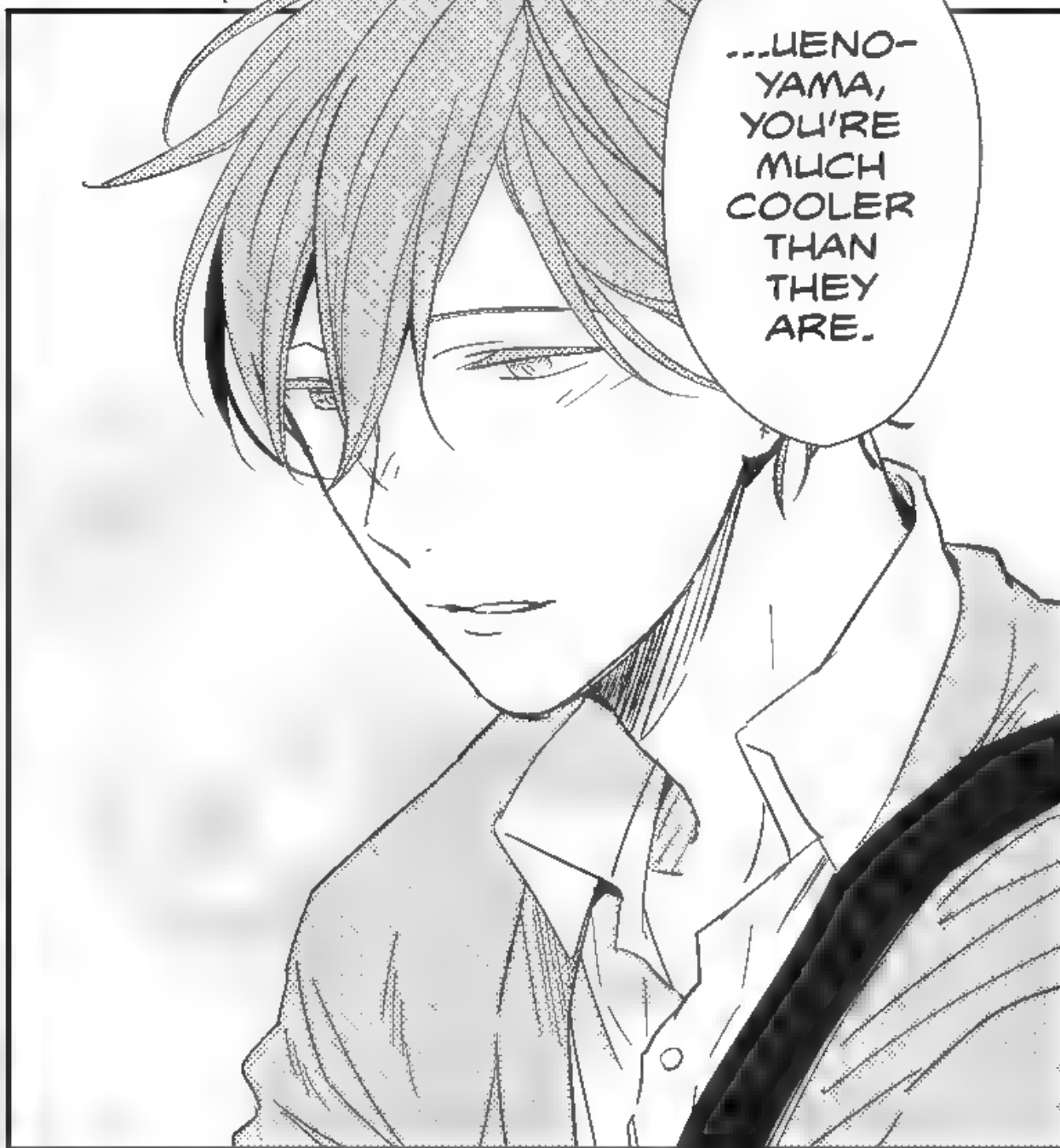
I
CHANGED
THE
STRINGS
BY
MYSELF.

LOOK
...

L...







Ritsuka Uenoyama (16)

175 cm

(Second-year high school student)

Birthday: 8/1 Sign: Leo Blood Type: B

Guitar → Telecaster Custom
(black) (customized a little)
Uses cheap triangle picks

(If forced to choose) Easy-grip type
Headphones are AKG
Open-backed

Favorite Music:
Likes a wide variety, including old,
new, Asian, and Western.

In the rock genre: alternative, grunge,
emo, screamo, electronica, ambient,
dubstep. (The list goes on.)

His father is a music geek and
has been a big influence on him.
(And because of this, he's pretty cool
for a high schooler.)

He was in the basketball club in
middle school (position: small forward).

Family: Dad, mom, older sister



Has an unconventional first name and is at an age when things like that bother him.

He believes he'll grow taller.



Undercut

Eyes and brows slant upwards.

Straight black hair

Thin brows

Lips are thin and frowning.



As siblings, their facial structure is similar.

He often hears "You two look alike," or that they're male and female versions of each other.

The elements are all here.

So if I...

...do this...

...then...

Yayoi Uenoyama
(20)
(College student)

Sign: Taurus
Blood Type: B

163 cm

Amateur model

The kind of person who says "Yeah, I know I'm gorgeous, gya ha ha!"

Ta-da!

They do look alike, right?



given

by Natsuki Kizu

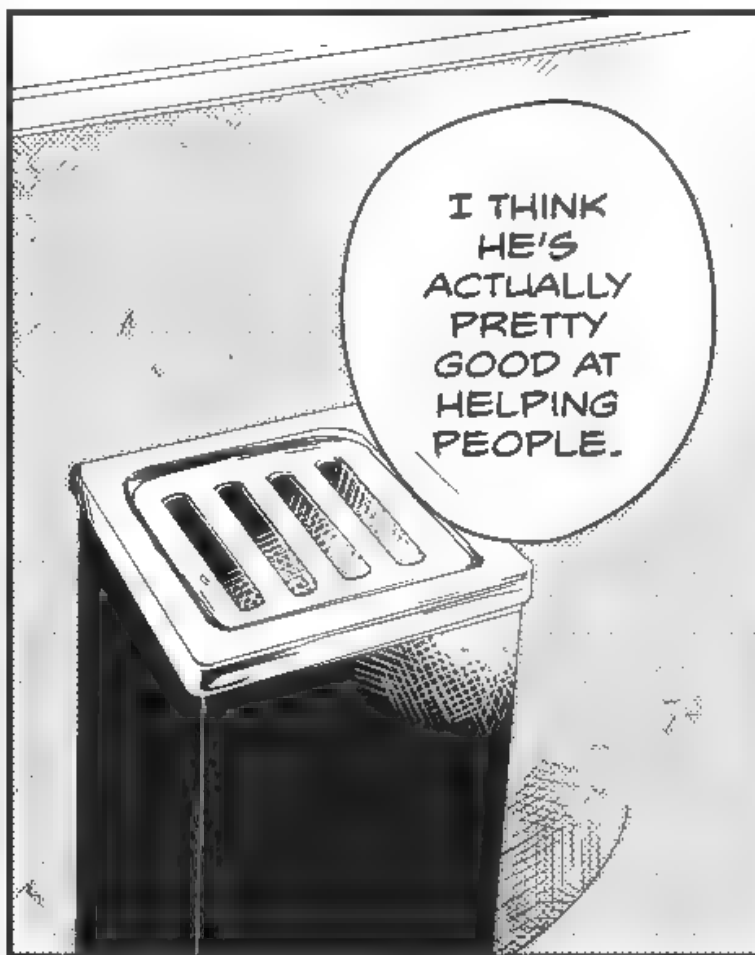
UECHHI SEEMS
LIKE HE'D
BE A SELF-
CENTERED
KIND OF GUY,
BUT...

"BUT"?

chapter 3 | given



YEAH,
HE IS.



I THINK
HE'S
ACTUALLY
PRETTY
GOOD AT
HELPING
PEOPLE.



WHAT
?

HE'S
ACTUALLY,
Y'KNOW...



HE'S NOT A
SOLO HOG,
THOUGH, AND
HE'S GOT A
RARE TALENT
FOR LISTENING TO
WHAT THE REST
OF THE BAND
IS DOING AND
RESPONDING
TO IT.

FOR
SOMEONE
SO YOUNG,
HE'S
CRAZY
GOOD AT
GUITAR.

HE WAS
JUST
ACTING
LIKE A
BRAT
CUZ OF
PUBERTY.

THAT'S
ALL.

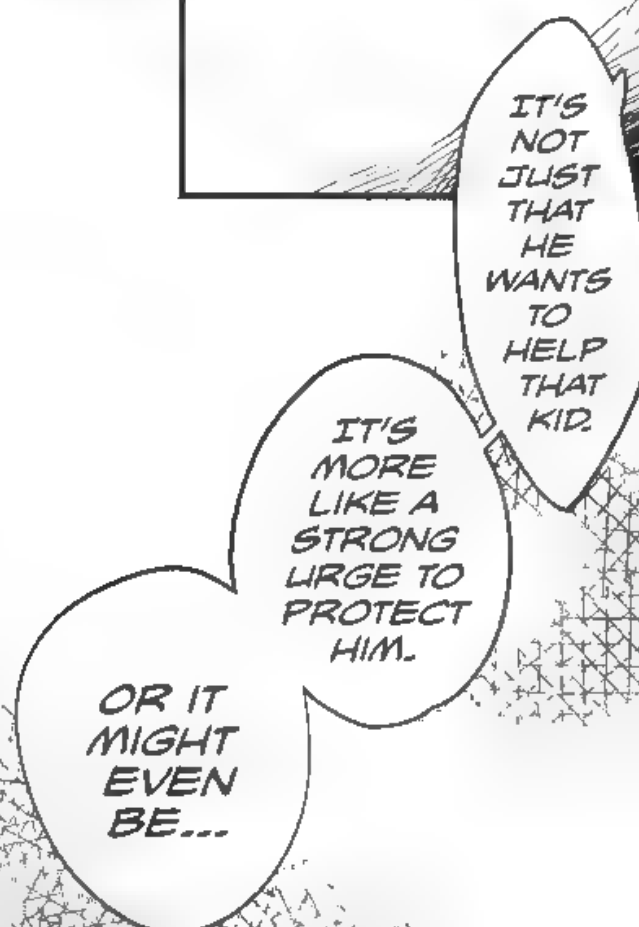
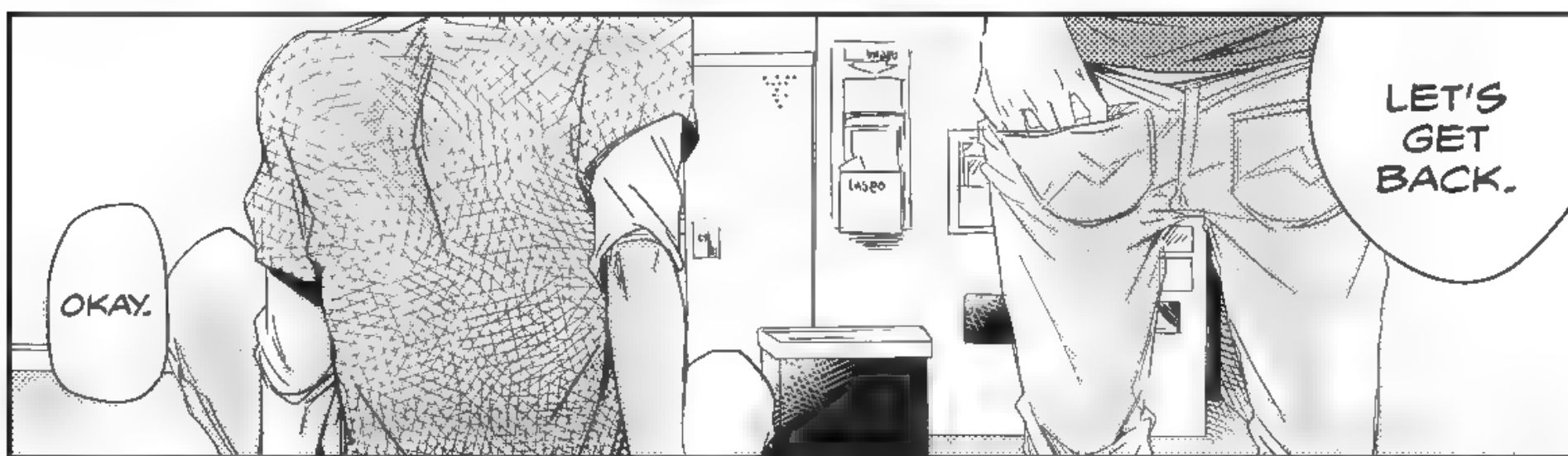
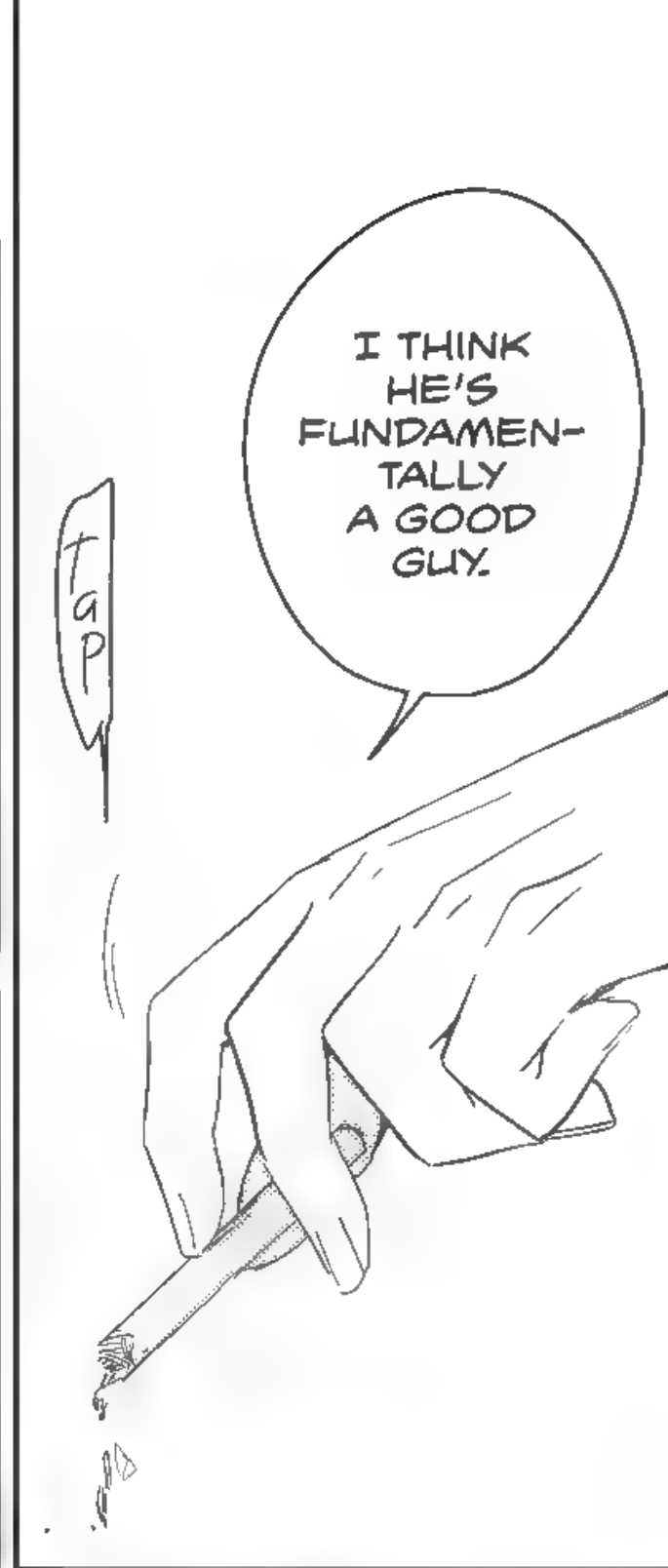


HE'S
ALWAYS
BEEN
LIKE
THAT.

BUT HE
WAS
A TOTAL
BRAT
WHEN WE
FIRST
STARTED
!!

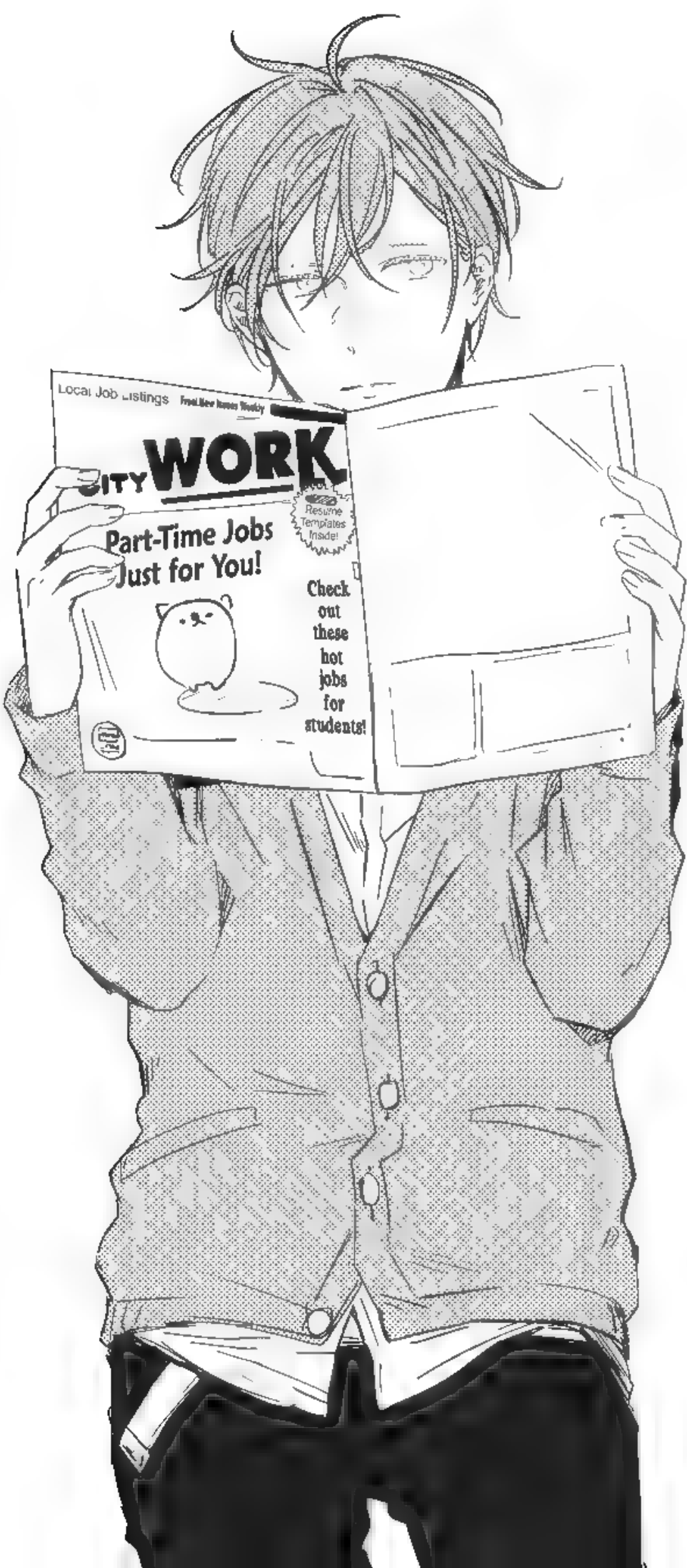
SURE,
BUT...

RIGHT?!
HE IS,
ISN'T
HE?!



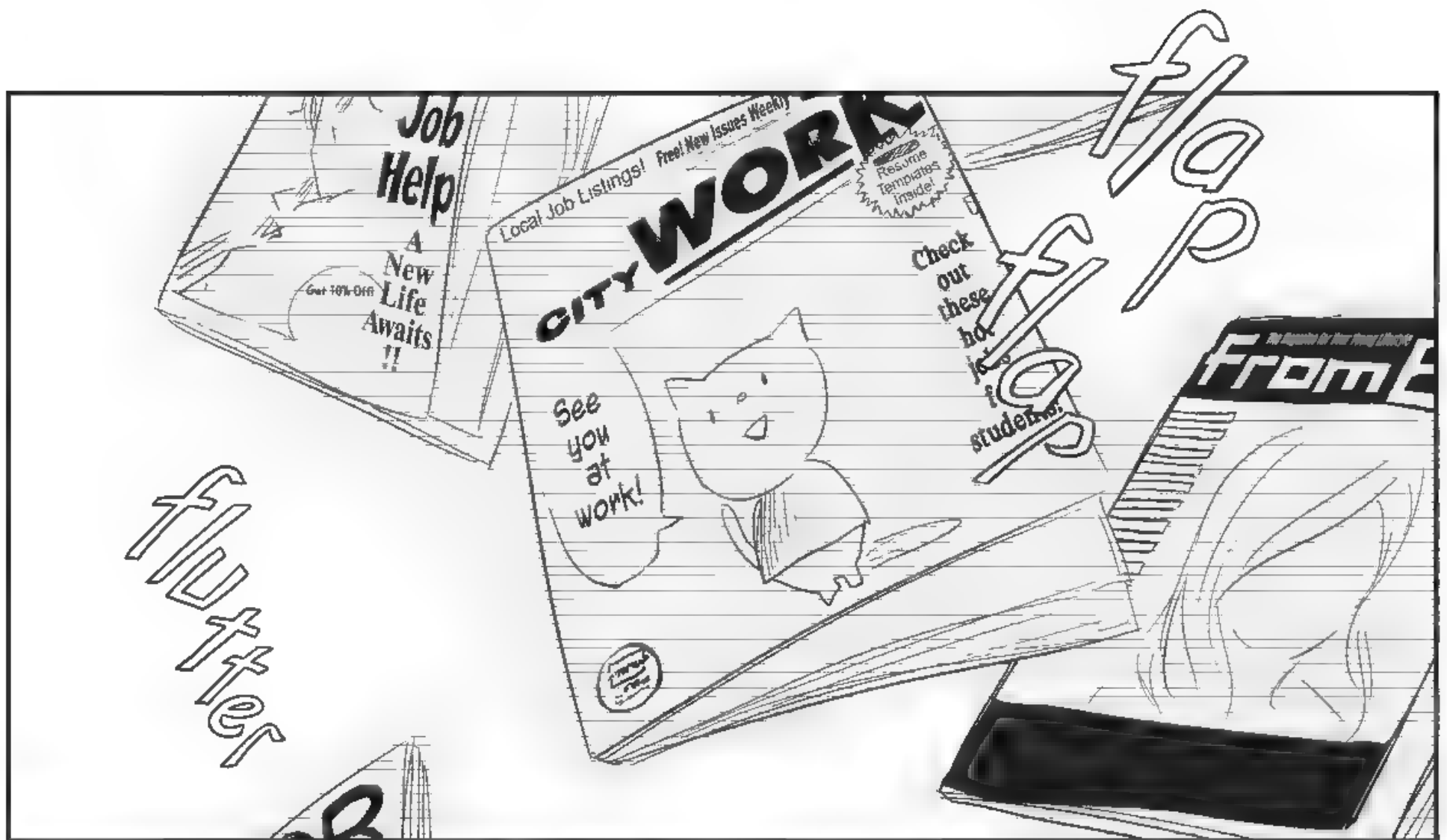
chapter 3

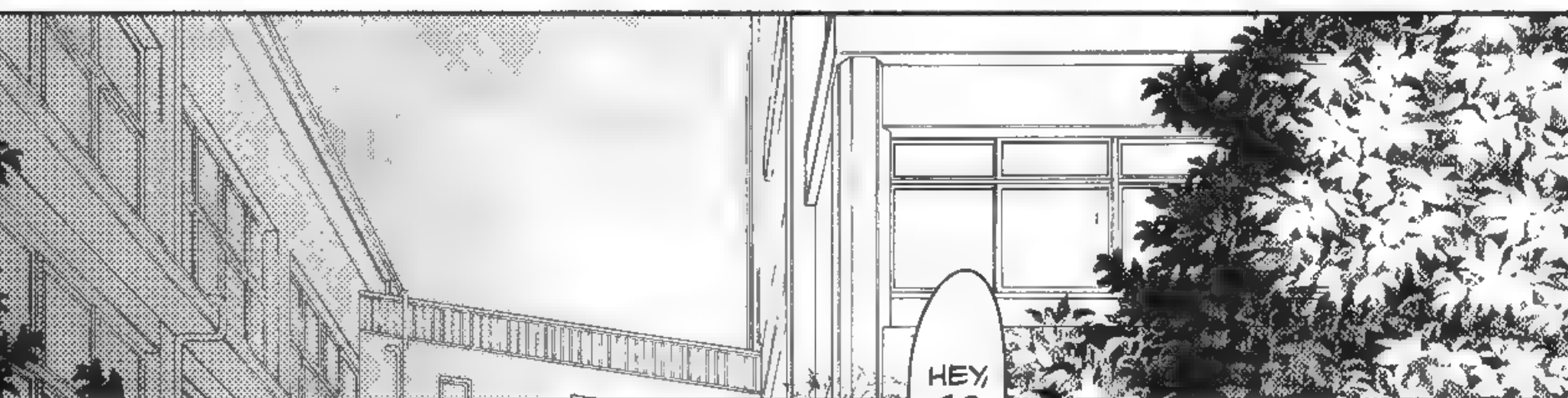
given















SO ARE
YOU GUYS
GAY OR
WHAT?

Bffft!

KOFF!



UENO-
YAMA!

AND
LOOK
WHO'S
HERE.



LIKE
THIS
...

AS
YOU'RE
STRUMMING,
YOU WANT
TO KINDA
QUICKLY
STRIKE THE
STRINGS
HERE.

GOT
IT?



MA-
FLYU
IS...

IF
YOU DO
THAT IN
SEQUENCE,
THEN...



IT'S
ALWAYS
COOL
TO SEE
SOMEONE
LEARN
SOME-
THING
NEW...

...AND
GET
GOOD
AT IT
SO
FAST.

FOR
SOMEONE
WHO
DOESN'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
MUSIC,
HE HAS A
GOOD EAR.



...
FASTER
THAN
I EX-
PECTED.

...
PICKING
THIS
UP...



...A
TOTAL
MYSTERY.

BUT
HE'S
STILL...





THAT
GUITAR
...



I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT HIS
MOTIVATION
IS TO
LEARN
MUSIC.

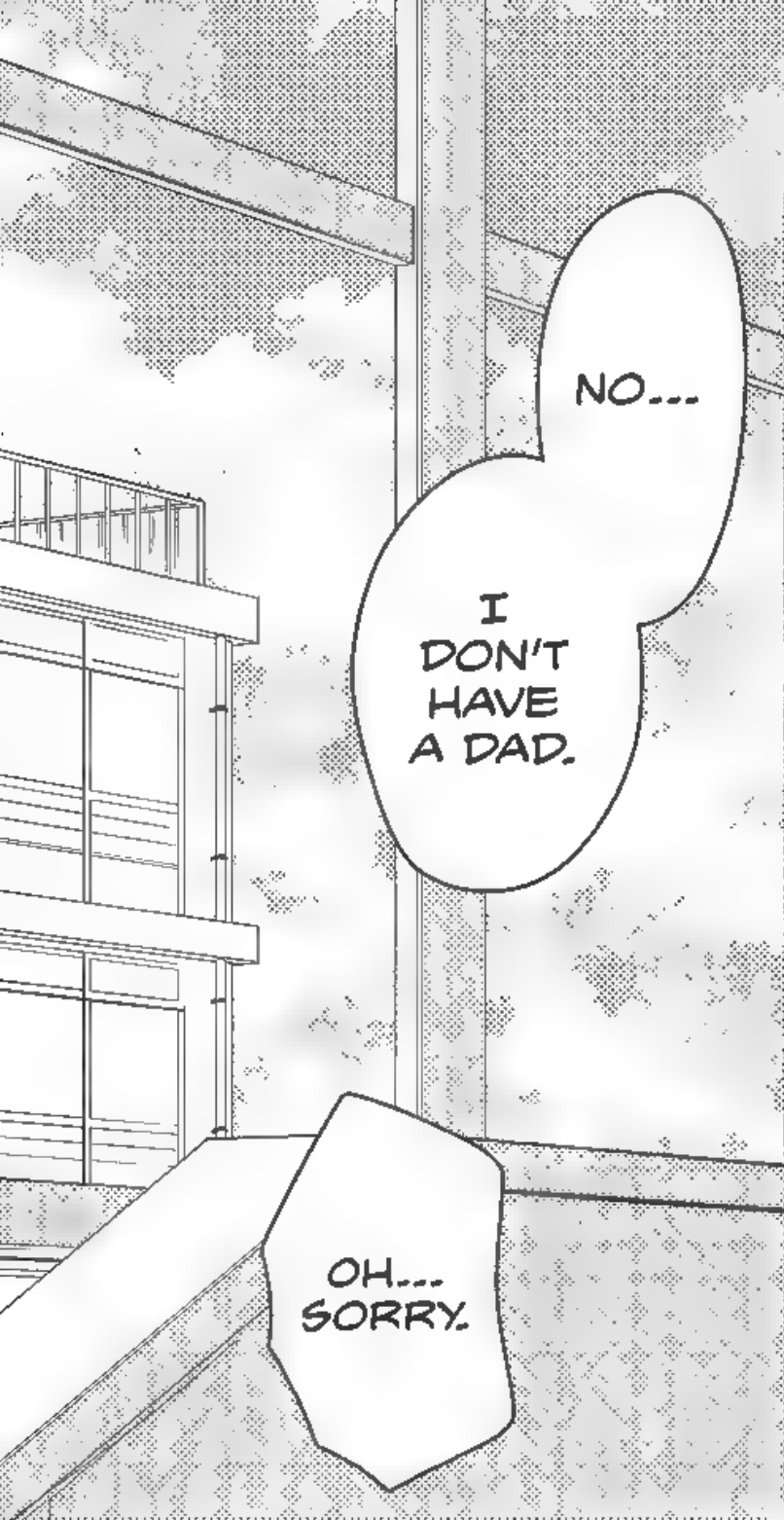
AND
ALSO...



...IS NOT
SOMETHING
A BEGINNER,
LET ALONE
A HIGH
SCHOOLER,
WOULD
HAVE.

WOULD
A NON-
MUSICIAN
BUY
THAT?

It must've
cost a lot





I'M NOT SURE WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT, BUT... THERE IS A SONG RUNNING THROUGH MY HEAD.

LIKE AN ELECTRIC CURRENT?

Through your head...?



Does he get what I'm saying at all?

RRG!



I DON'T REALLY KNOW ...

DAMN IT!



IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS.

...TO SAY IT.

BUT ...

?

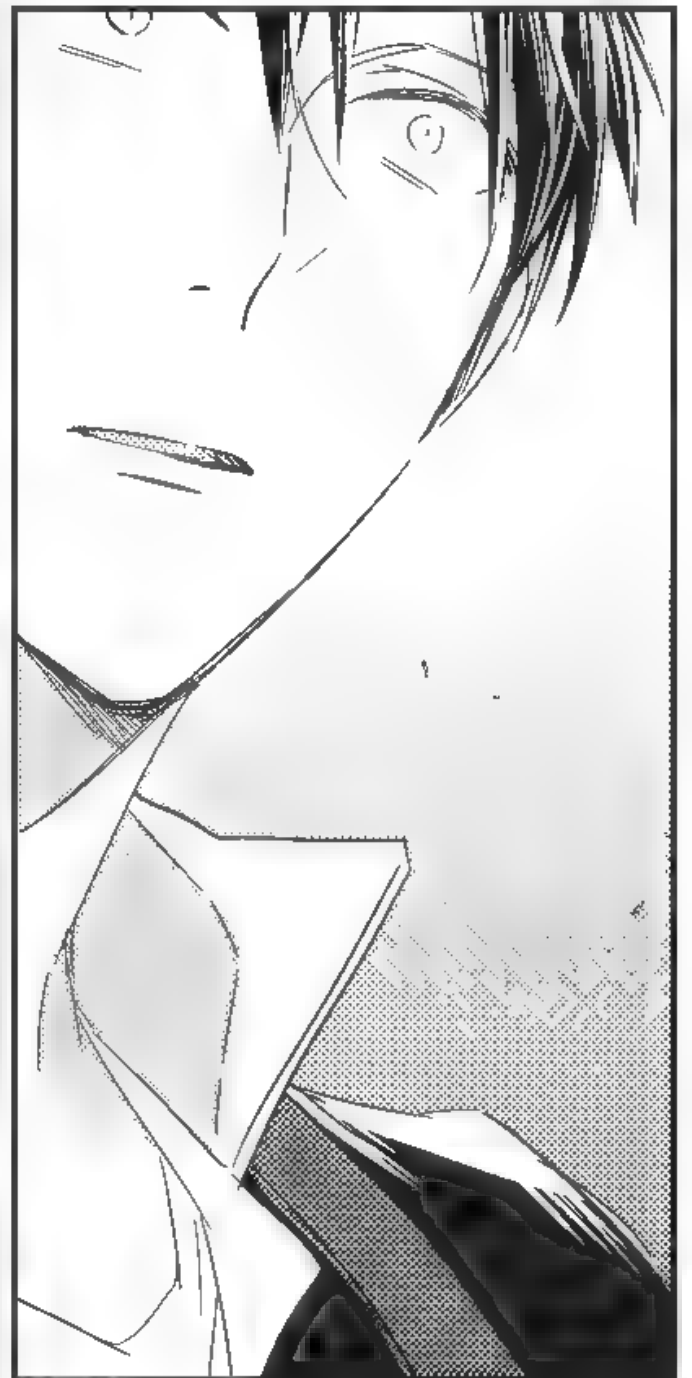
I DON'T KNOW HOW...

WHAT KIND OF SONG?





AT THAT
MOMENT,
IT WAS LIKE
I COULD
FEEL THE
AIR ITSELF
RESONATING
WITH HIS
SONG.





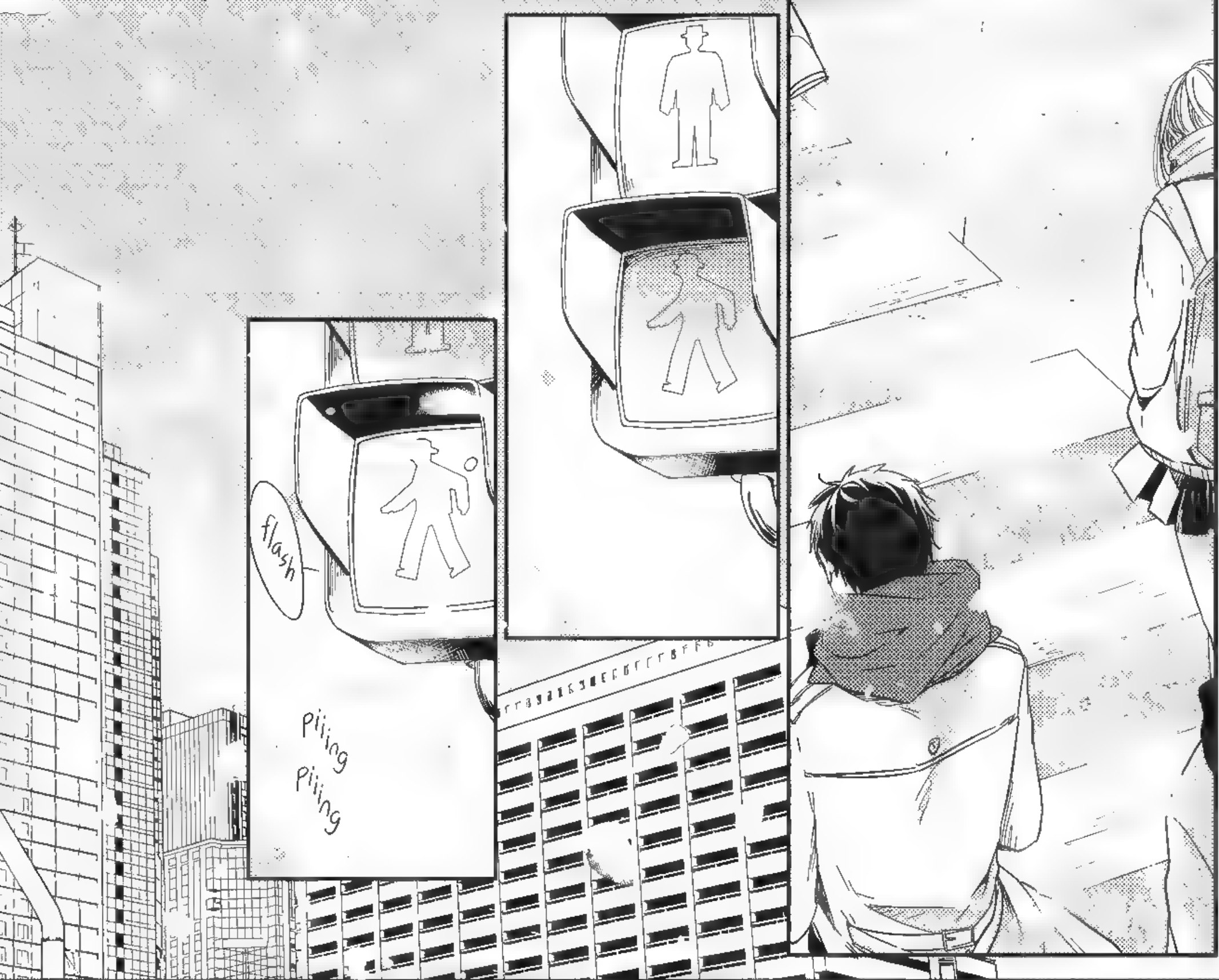
Does he
get what
I'm saying
at all?



RRG!

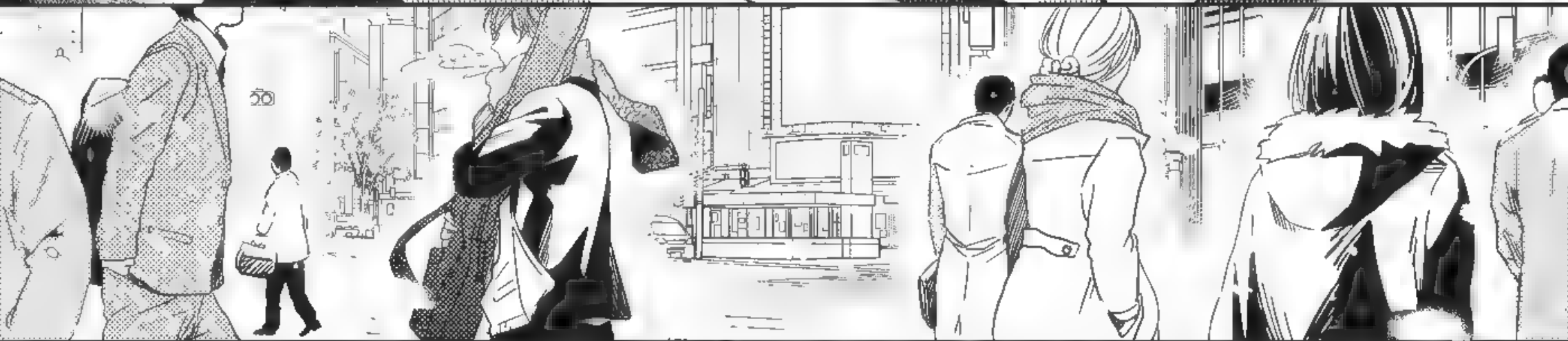
given

by Natsuki Kizu





BECAUSE
EVEN
THOUGH
I'LL NEVER
SEE YOU
AGAIN...



...DON'T
HAVE
WORDS
FOR IT
YET...

AND
EVEN
THOUGH
I...



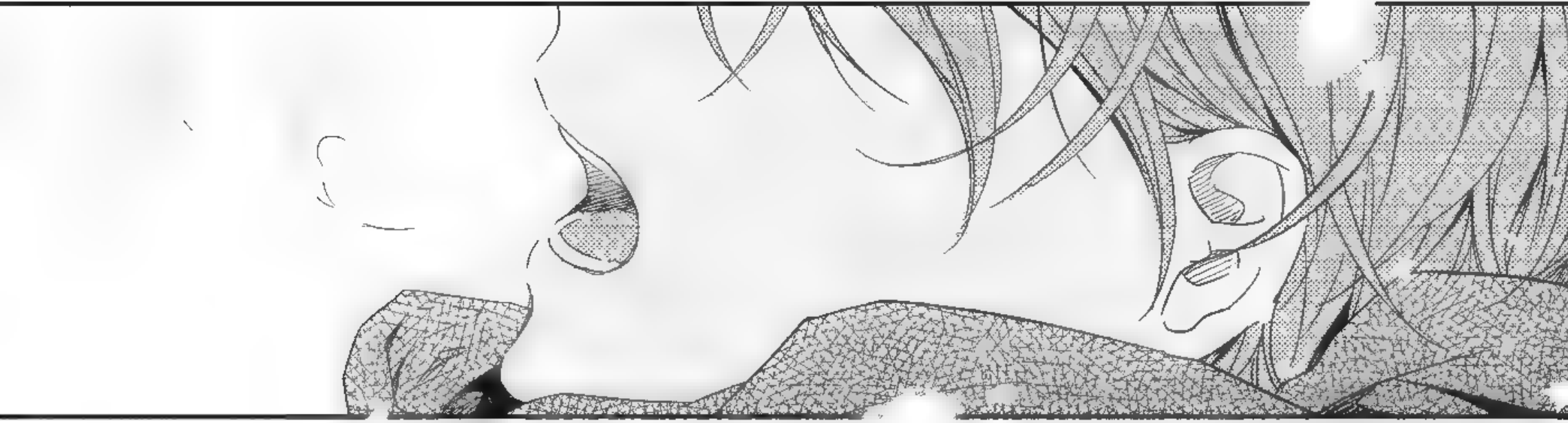
...
SOME-
THING
...

...
WITHIN
ME...

I
STILL
CARRY
...

...THAT
YOU
LOVED.

Shimada Co.
IWAMOTO
SUNSHINE

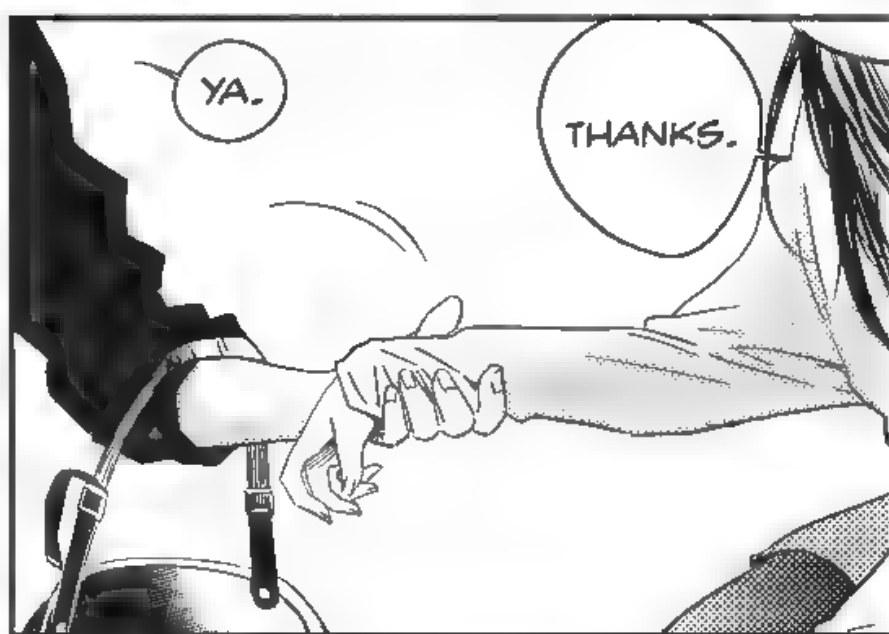


IT
HAPPENED
ONE
WINTER.
IT
HAPPENED
ONE
MORNING.

chapter 4

given







LATER!

WHAT ABOUT CLASS?!

"LATER"?!
pat



HARUKI!

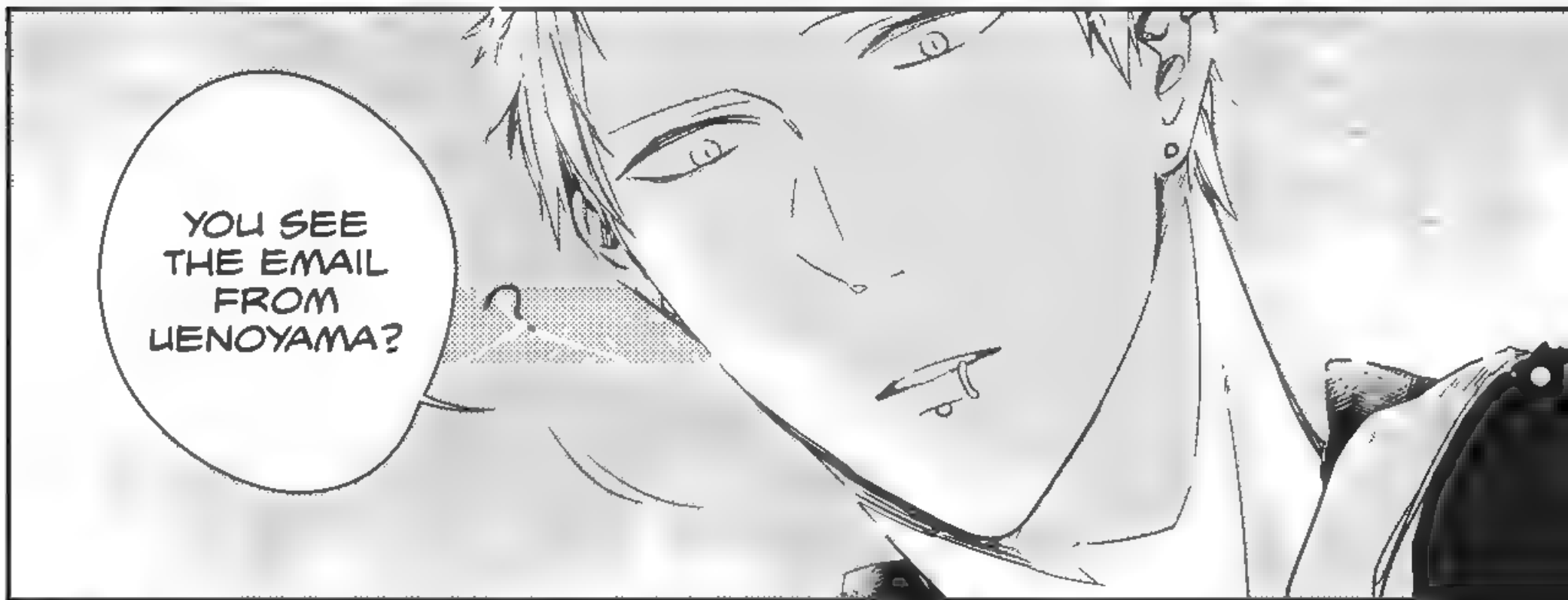
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE SUCH A PLAYER?



HEY, WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?



OH...



YOU SEE THE EMAIL FROM LIENOYAMA?



YES, I DID.

EXHAUSTED



I JUST
THOUGHT
HE'D WAIT
UNTIL
MAFLUYU'S
GUITAR
SKILLS GOT
BETTER.

YEAH,
ME
TOO.



I
DIDN'T
GET
WHY THE
RUSH.

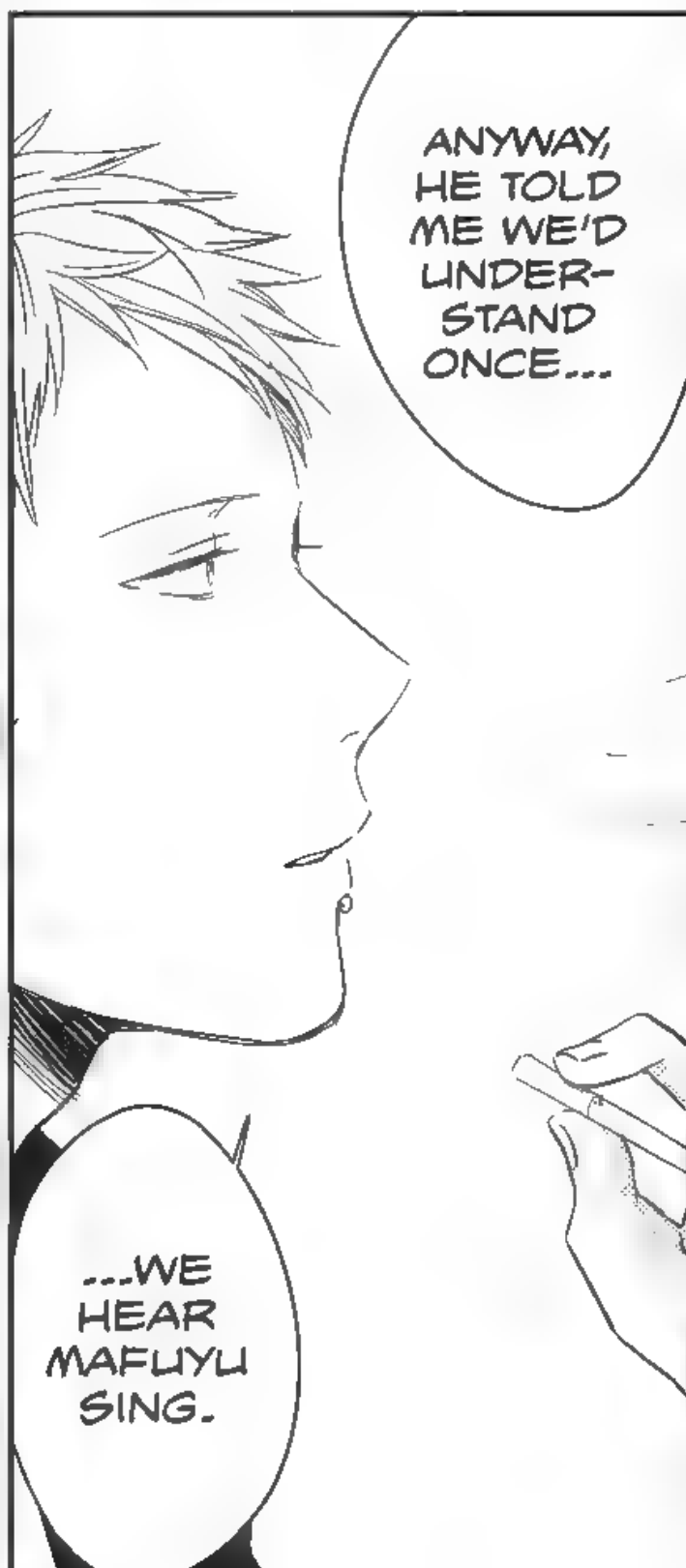


IS
HE
OK
?

THIS WAS
BOUND TO
HAPPEN
SOONER
OR LATER.
GUESS WE
SHOULDN'T
BE SUR-
PRISED.



"I WANT
MAFLUYU
TO JOIN
THE
BAND!"
END
QUOTE.



ANYWAY,
HE TOLD
ME WE'D
UNDER-
STAND
ONCE....

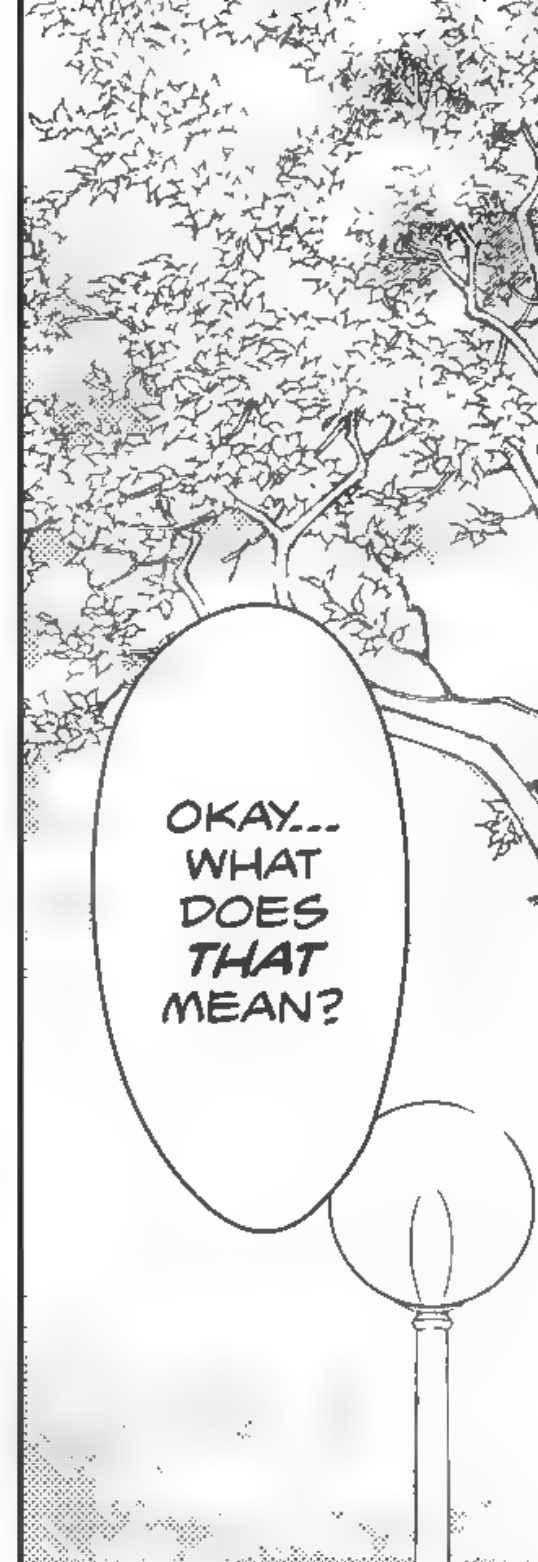
...WE
HEAR
MAFLUYU
SING.

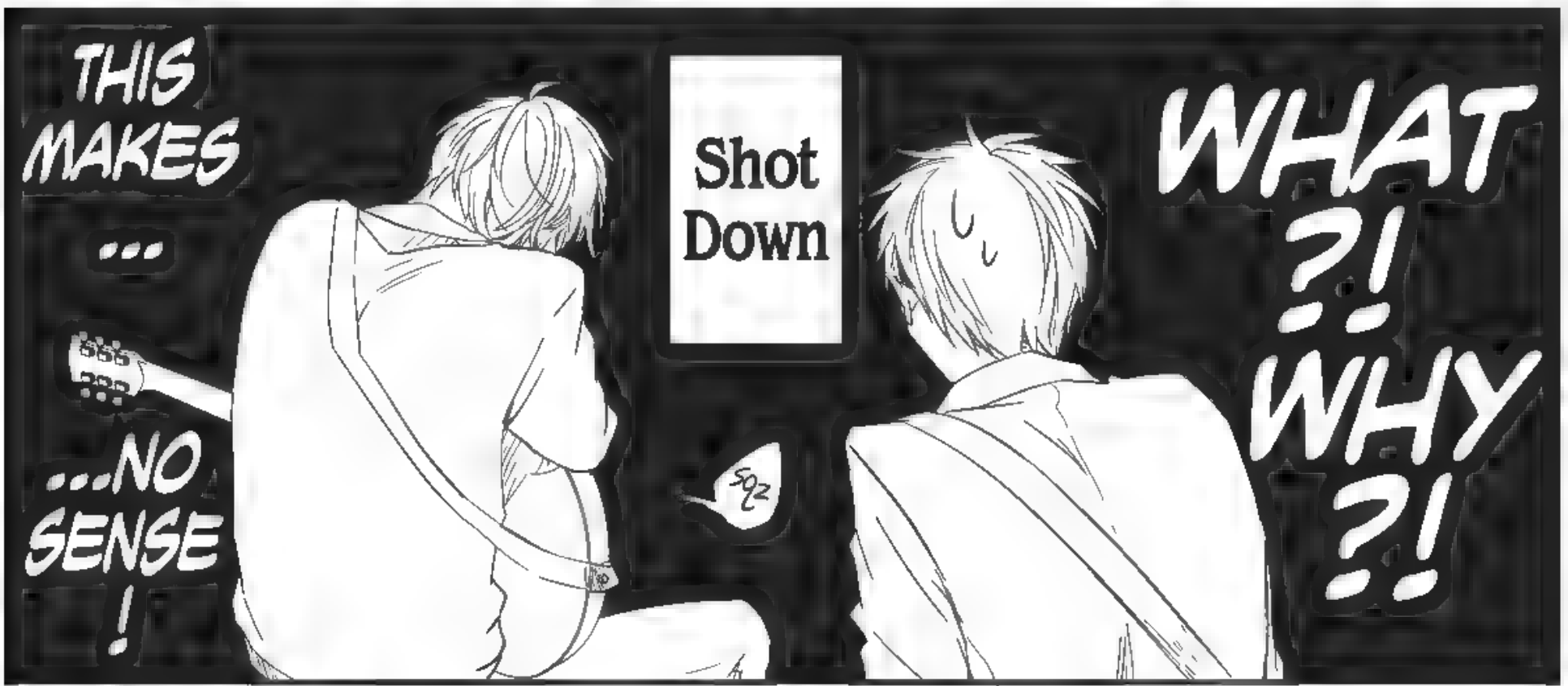


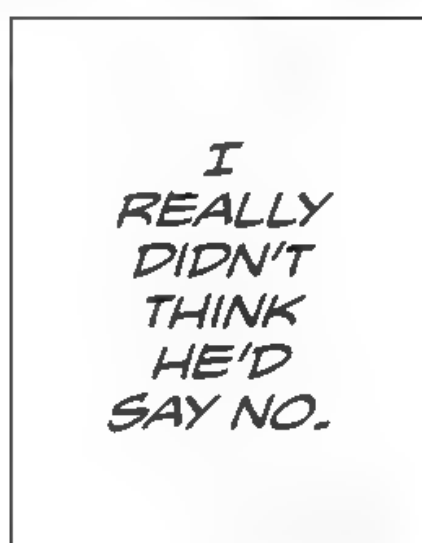
SO I
ASKED
HIM.

C'MON,
YOU KNOW
UECCHI IS INTO
THE KID. ISN'T
THAT A LITTLE
MEAN, TO RUB
HIS FACE
IN IT?

MY
BAD
...



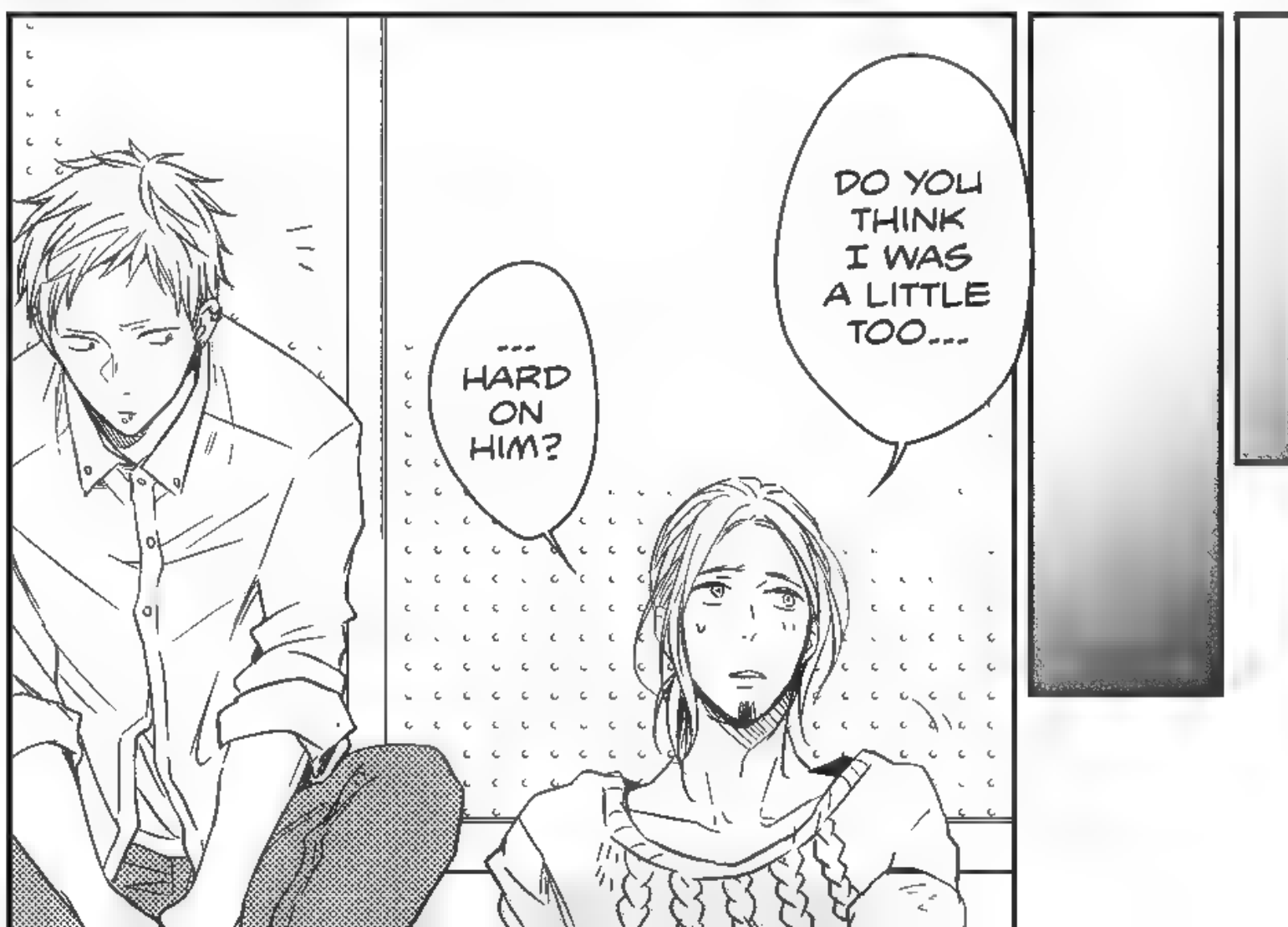
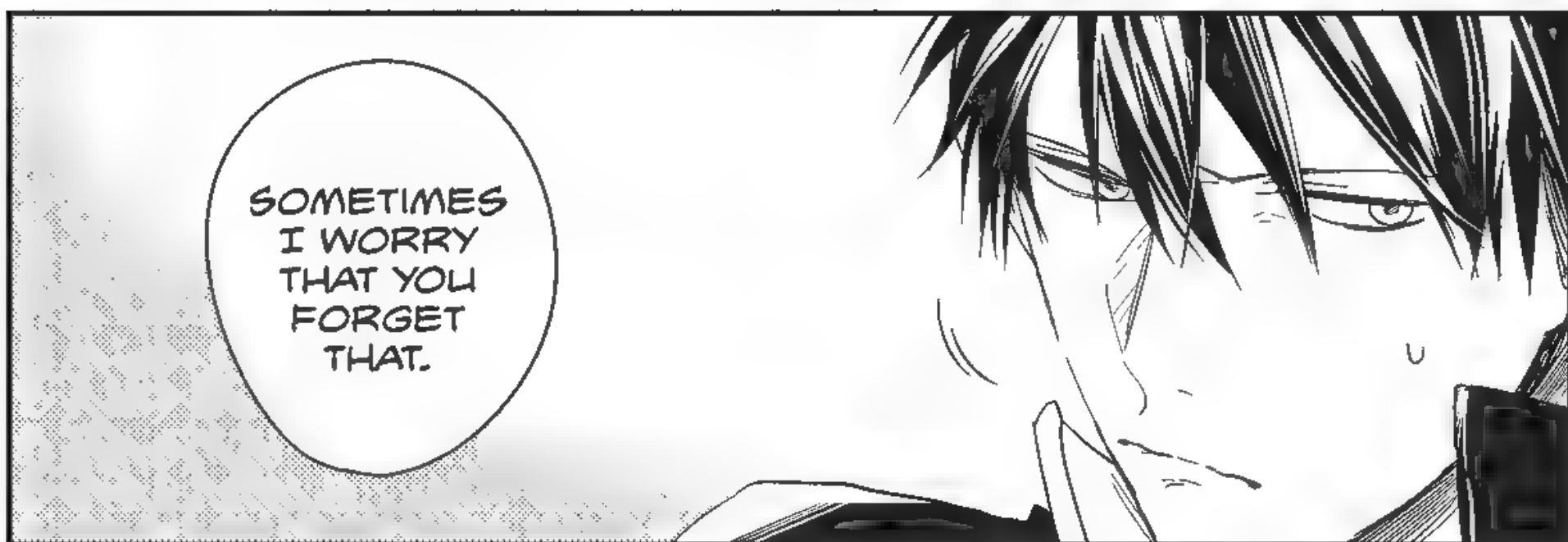


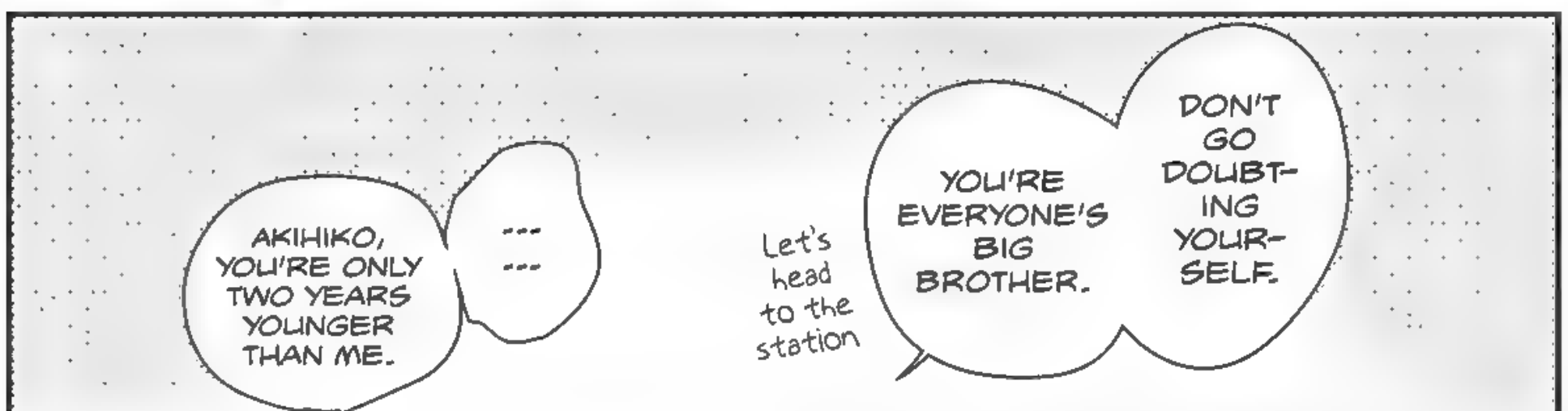
















MAFLUYU,
IS THAT
YOU?





WOW,
I
CAN'T
BE-
LIEVE
IT.



HUH
?

WHAT
HAVE



---YOU
BEEN
UP
TO?


I
HAVEN'T
HEARD
FROM
YOU IN
AGES!

WAIT...
WHAT'S
THAT
YOU'RE
CARRYING
ON YOUR
BACK?

NO
WAY





The image is a dark, grainy, high-contrast photograph. It appears to be a silhouette of a person standing, with a bright rectangular area in the center of the torso. The text is written in a bold, sans-serif font within this bright area. The background is dark and textured, with some lighter, grainy patches that might be reflections or part of the original scene.

*I NEVER
KNOW
HOW TO
REACT IN
THESE
KINDS OF
SITUATIONS.*

OTHER
PEOPLE
SEEM TO
KNOW WHAT
THE BEST
THING TO
DO IS.



...CRY OR
LAUGH
OR SAY
THE RIGHT
WORDS.

THEY
CAN...

HEY!

MAFUU!

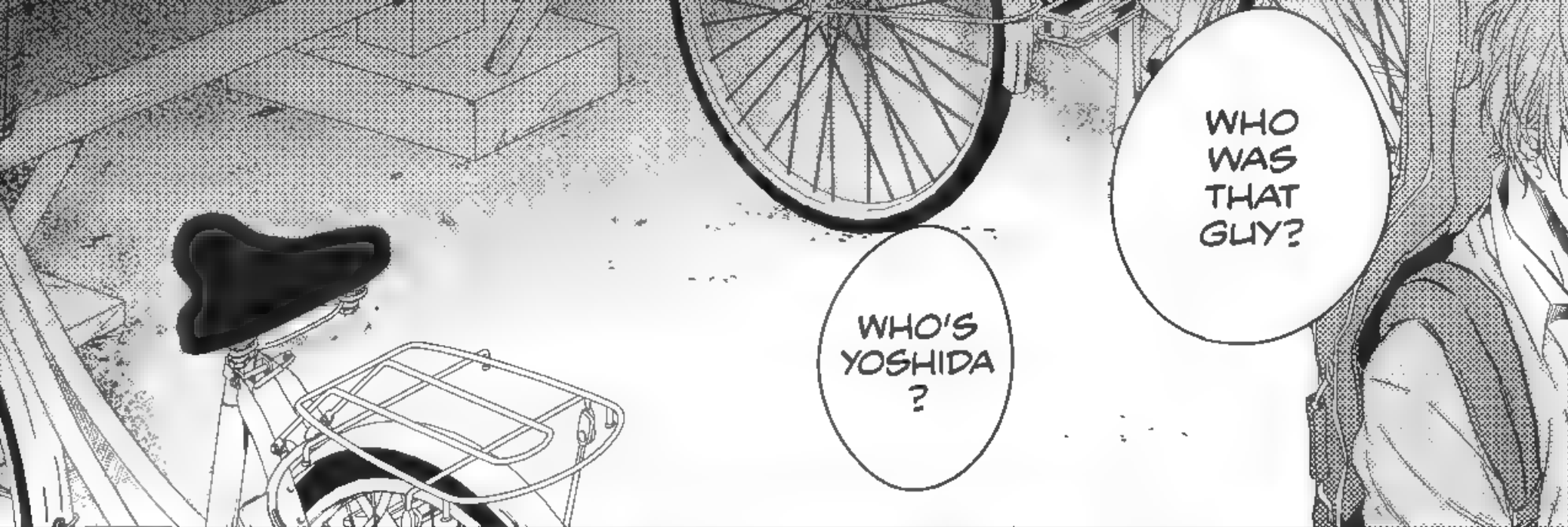
BUT I'M NOT GOOD AT IT.

ARE
YOU NOT
HEARING
ME?
WAIT UP!

GRAB









PLAYING
IN A BAND
MEANS
TRYING TO
EXPRESS
SOMETHING
TO
PEOPLE.

RIGHT
?

I GET
TOLD A LOT
THAT I LOOK
LIKE A
SPACE CASE,
LIKE I'VE
GOT NOTHING
TO SAY.

SOME-
TIMES
I THINK
THAT'S
TRUE.



OKAY,
THEN
WHY—



NO,
IT'S
NOT
THAT.

shake
shake



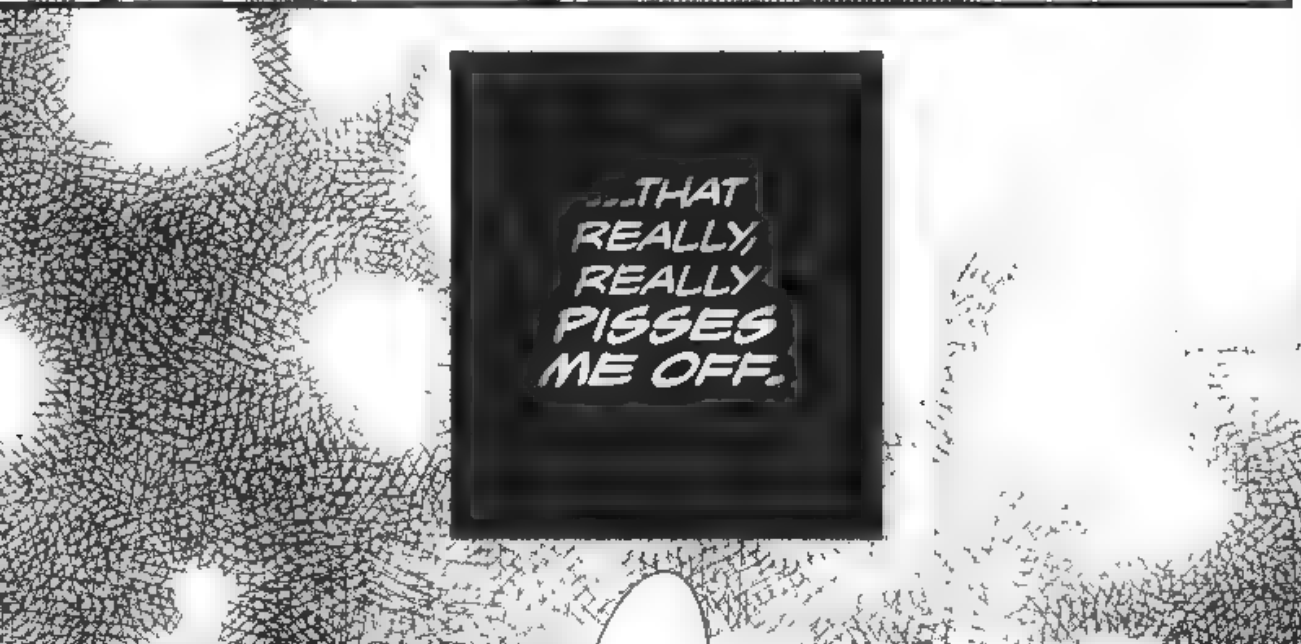
...COMPARED
TO OTHER
PEOPLE.

...PROBABLY
REALLY
BAD AT
EXPRESSING
MYSELF...

I'M...



FOR
SOME
REASON



...THAT
REALLY,
REALLY
PISSES
ME OFF.



THAT...




...IS ONE
OF THE
DUMBEST
THINGS
I'VE EVER
HEARD!!



ARE
YOU
KID-
DING
ME
?!



YOU
THINK YOU
SUCK AT
EXPRESS-
ING
YOUR-
SELF
?!



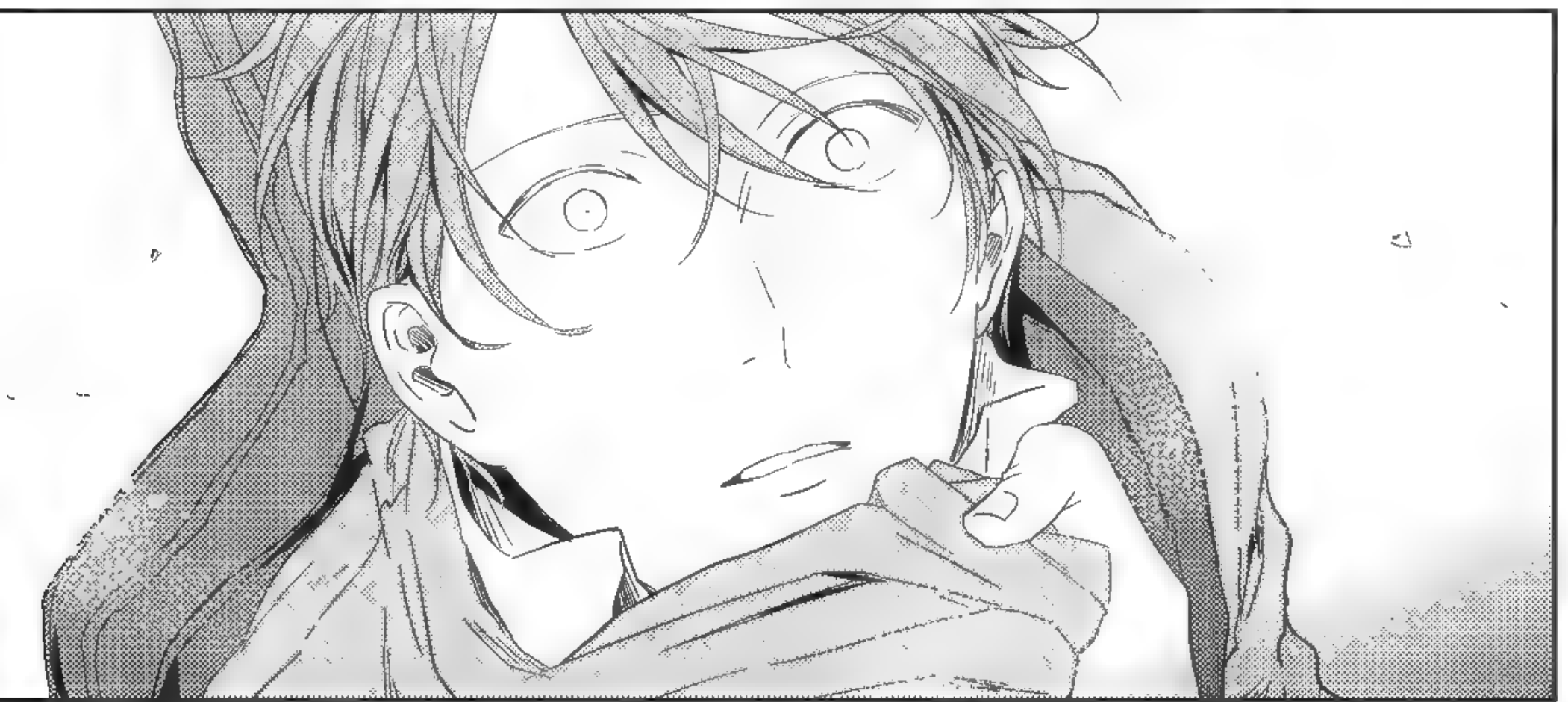
YOU
THINK
YOU'VE
GOT
NOTHING
TO
SAY?!



I
INVITED
YOU TO
JOIN US
BECAUSE
...



...YOUR
SONG WENT
STRAIGHT
TO MY
HEART!



...THAT
YOU'RE
NOT
ABLE TO
EXPRESS
YOUR-
SELF?

MAFLYU
...

SO HOW
COULD
YOU
THINK...

Huff

YOU
LOOK
SO
HURT
RIGHT
NOW.

Huff

SING
THAT...

...SONG
FOR
ME.

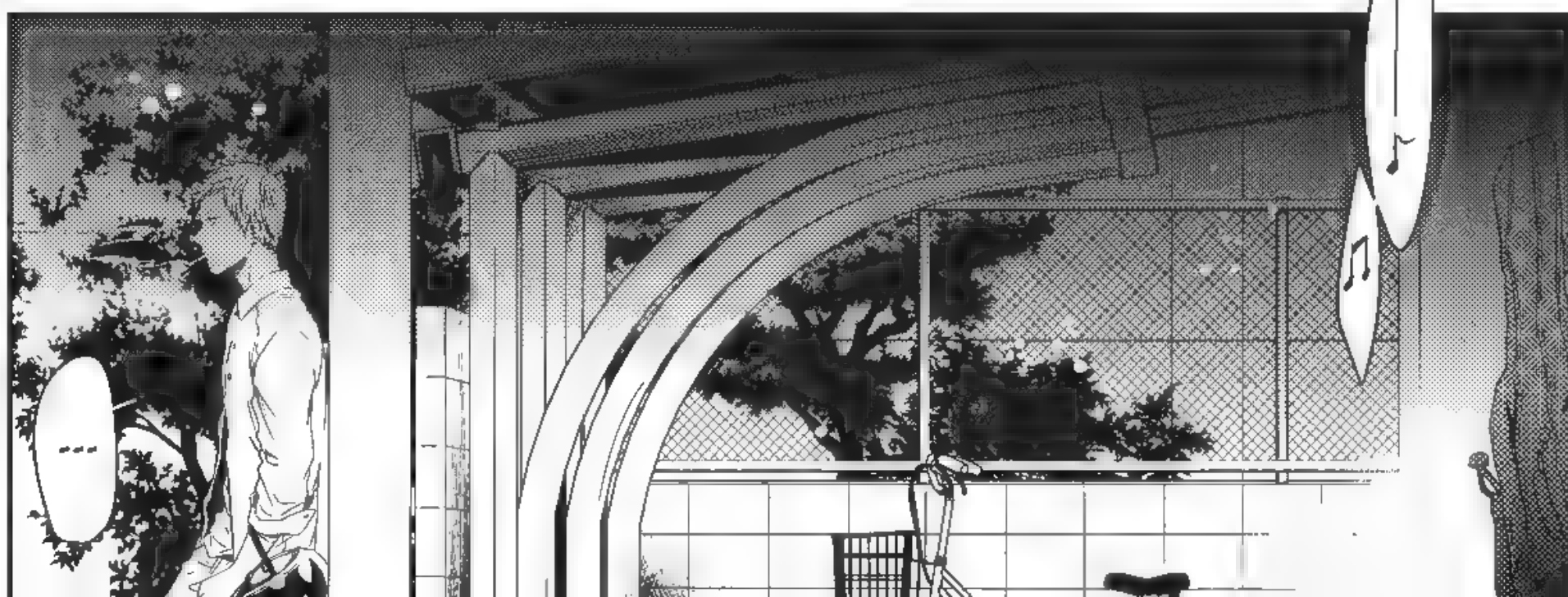
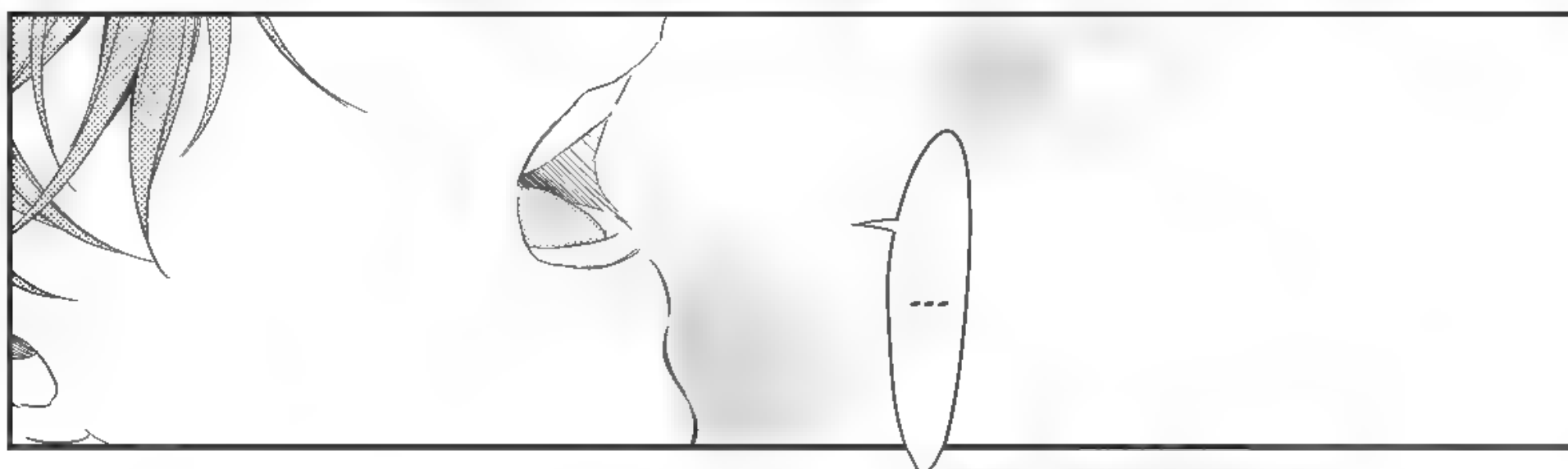
I
REALLY
LIKE
IT TOO.

shf

Ha

tap

...



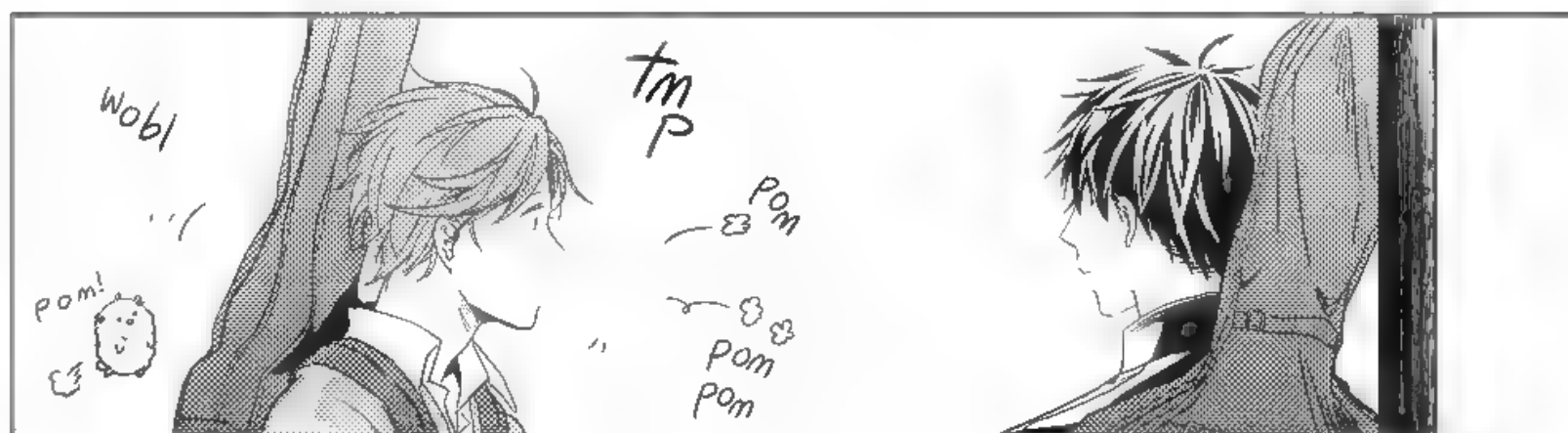


NOW
THAT IS
SOME-
THING...



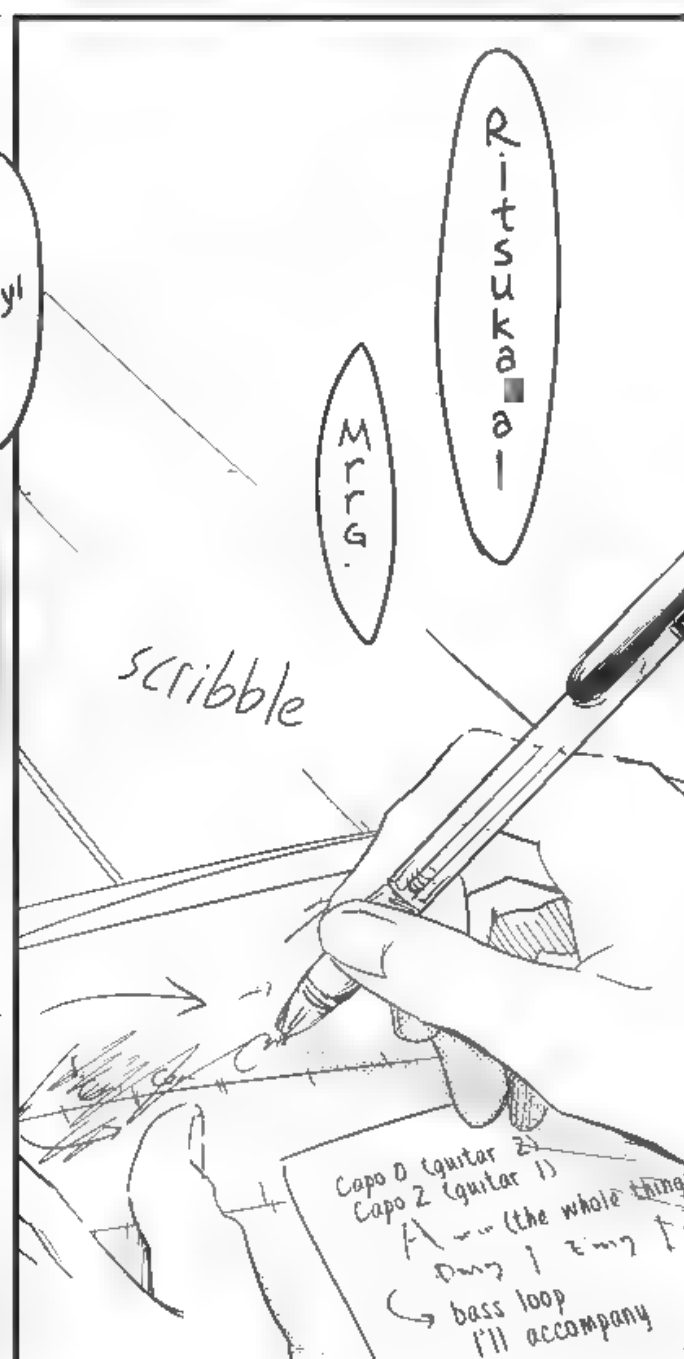
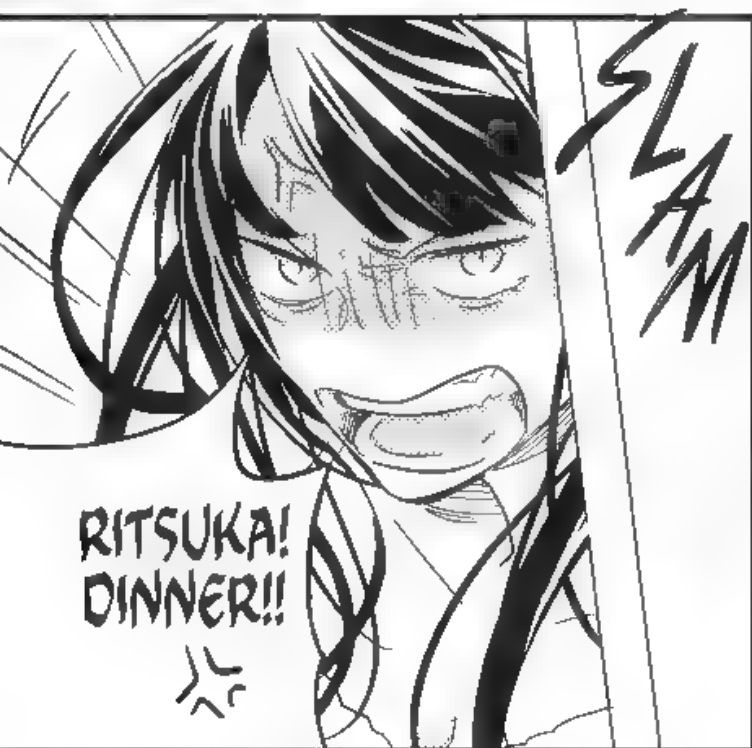
shur

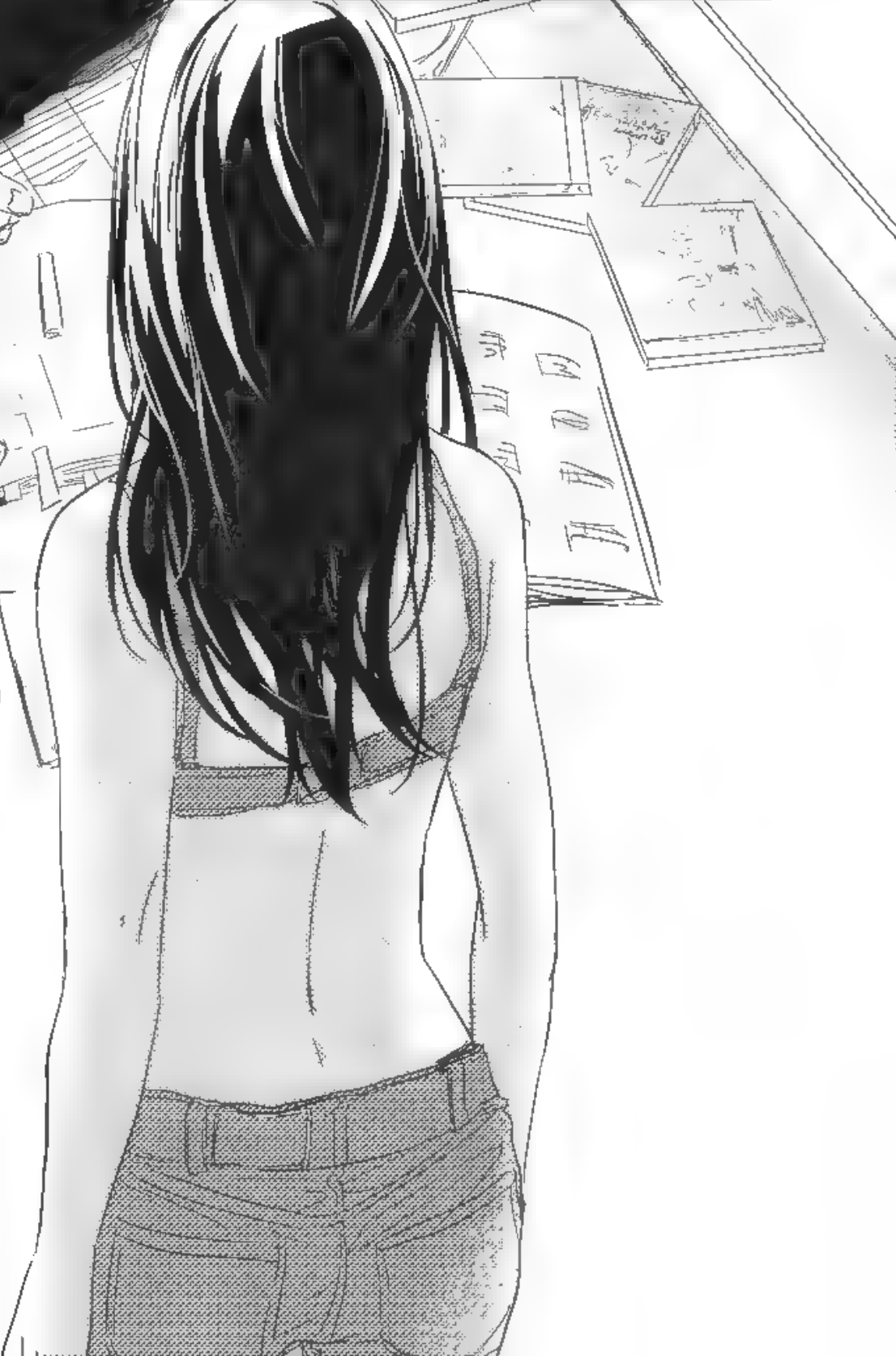
....I
DID
NOT
EXPECT.



given

by Natsuki Kizu





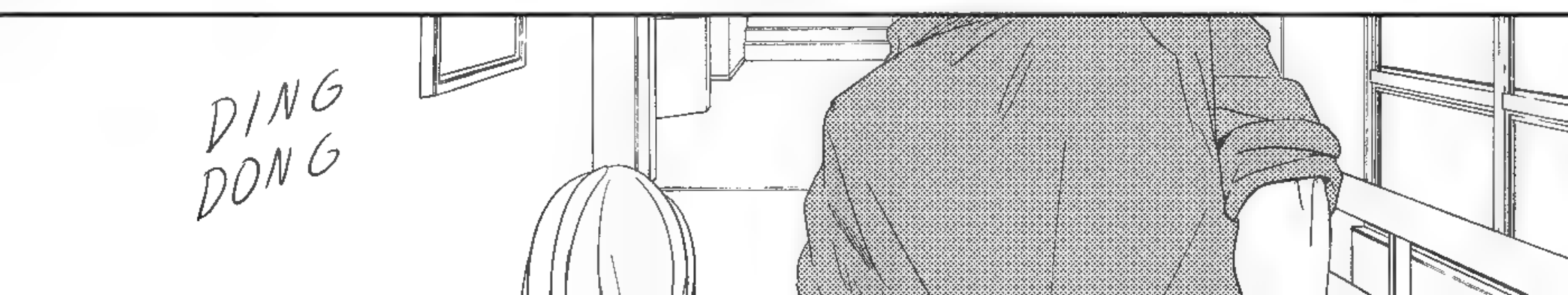
chapter 5

given











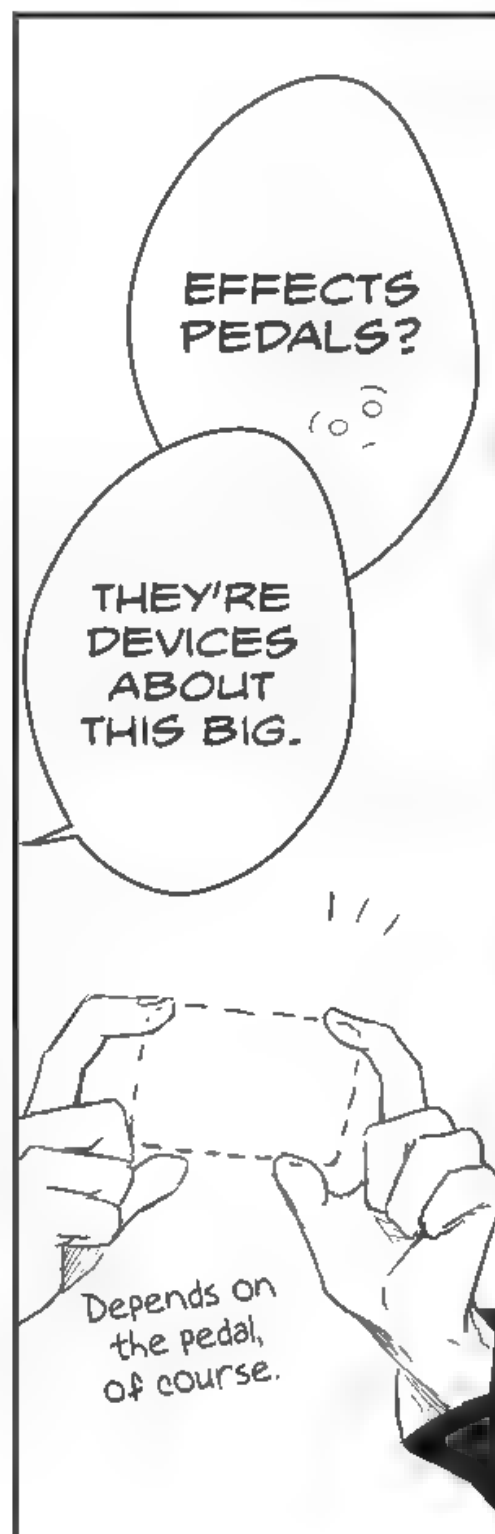
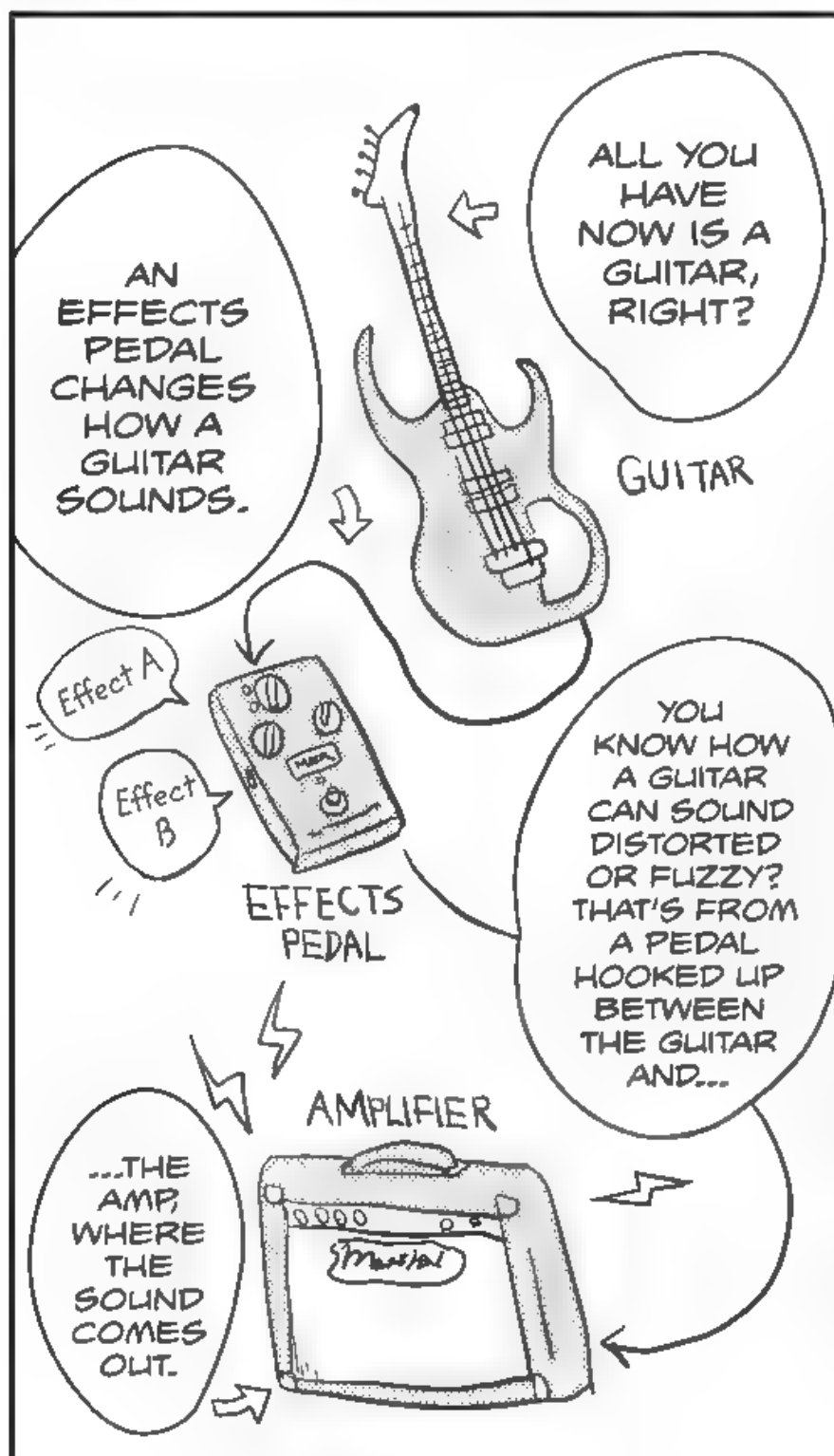


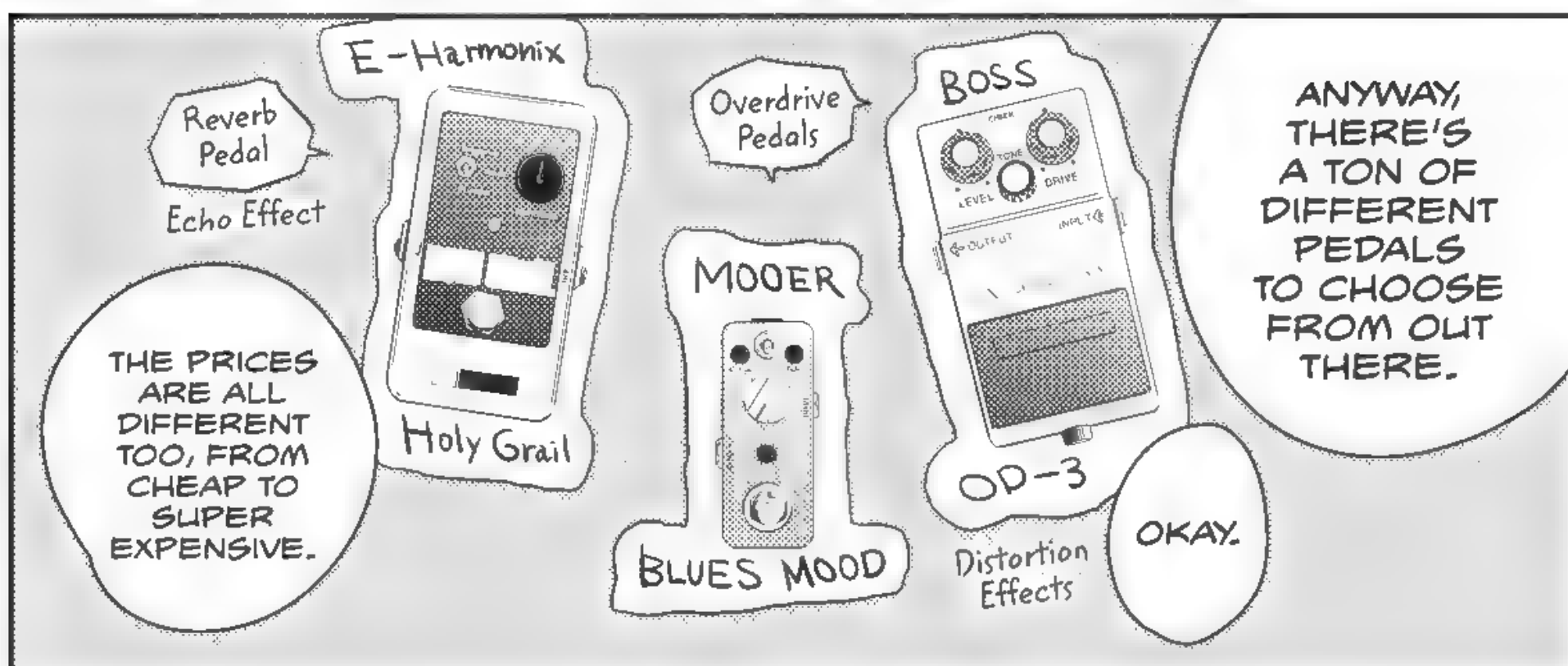
How about tomorrow?

I'll do Basketball tomorrow











HE
LAUGHED
...

TRY IT
OUT...

...FOR
A BIT.

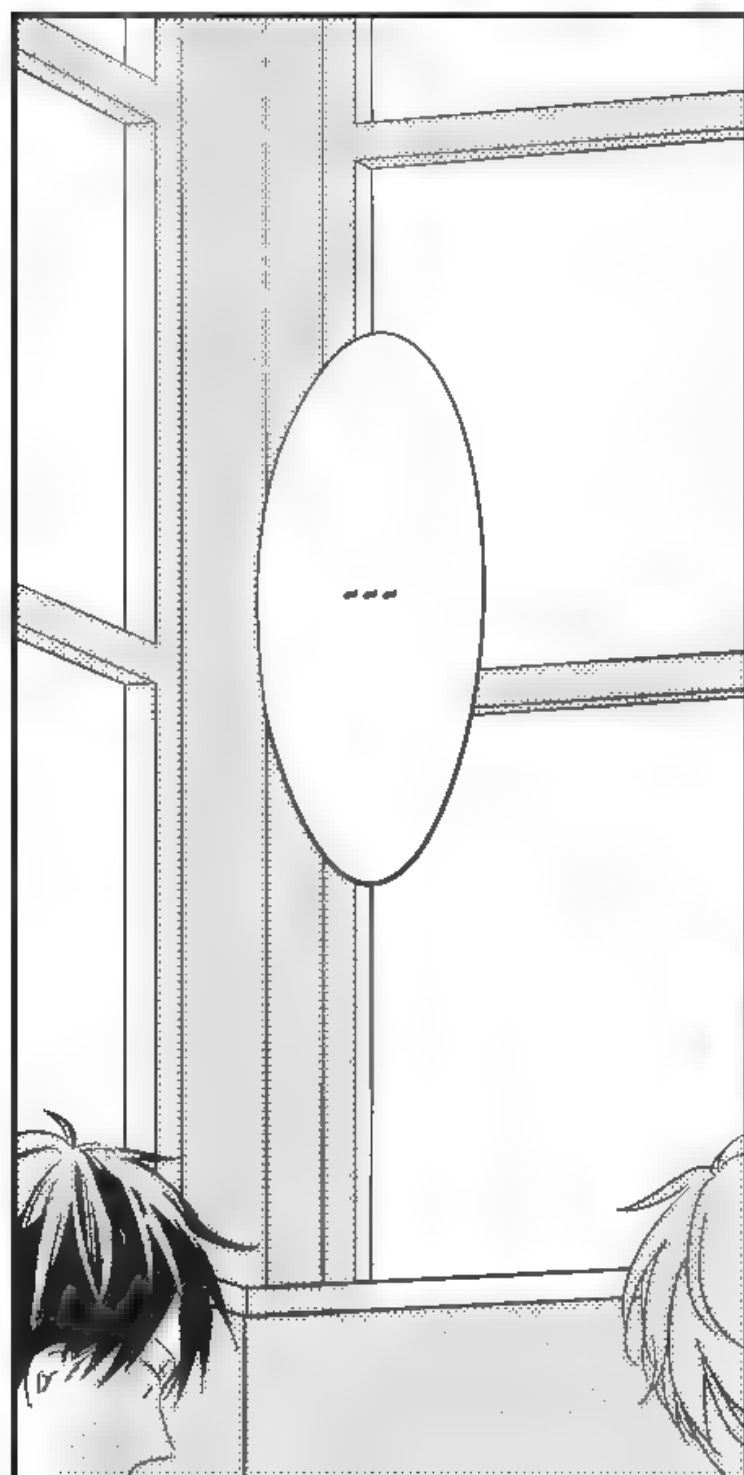
FOR
NOW,
YOU CAN
JUST
BORROW
ONE OF
MINE.



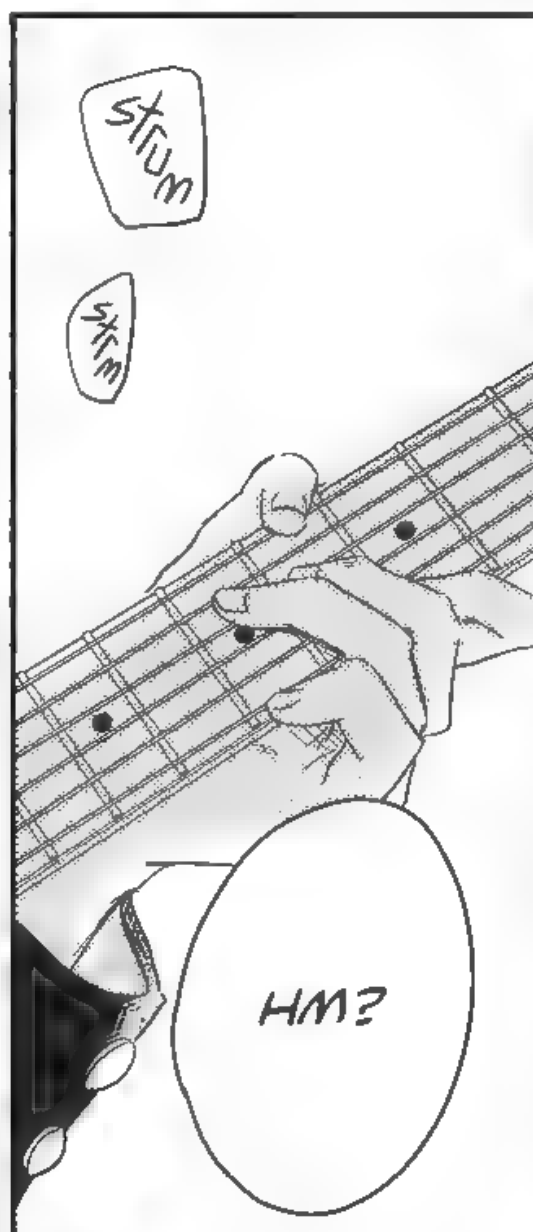
Mu
ha
ha

YOU'RE
JOINING THE
BAND, SO I'M
NOT GONNA
GO EASY ON
YOU.

NO
MORE
MR. NICE
GUY.



...



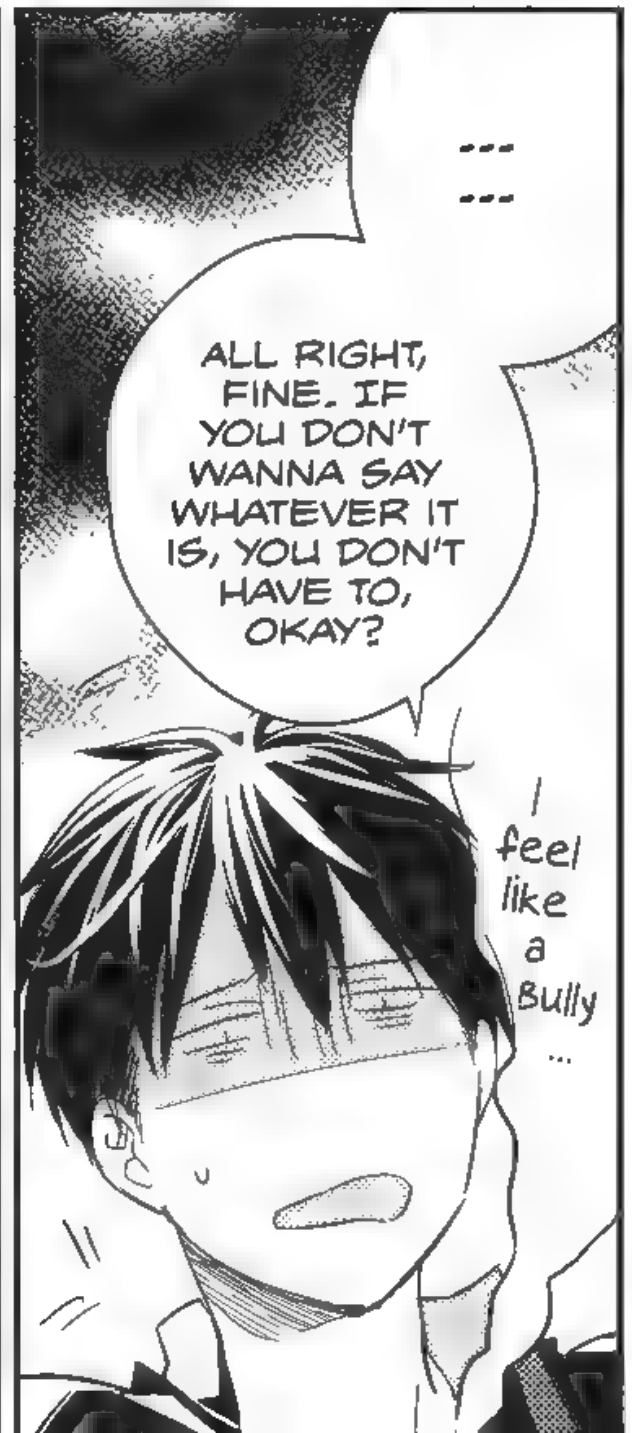
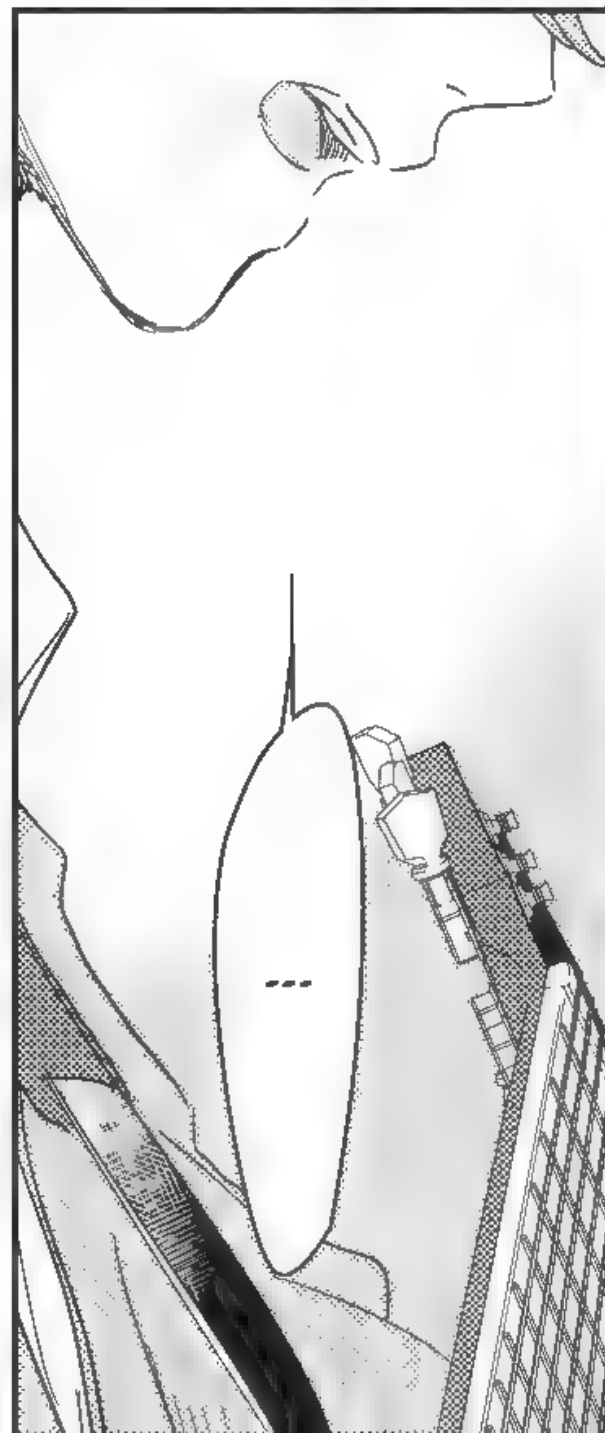
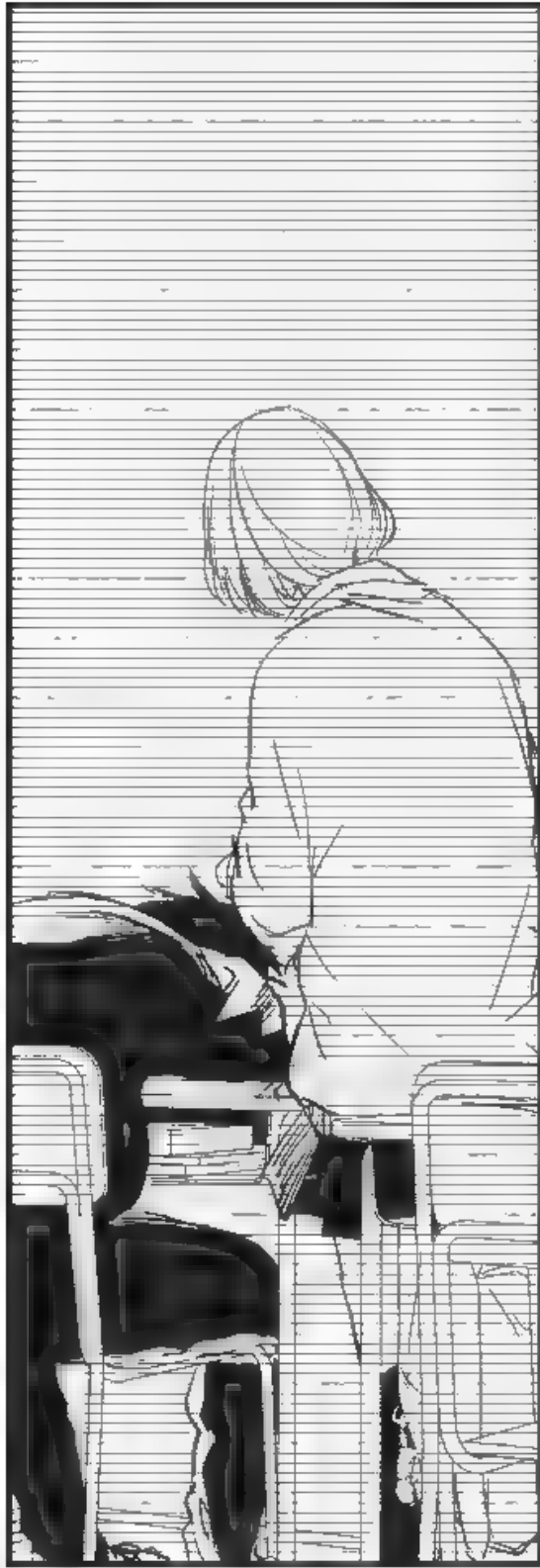
strum

strum

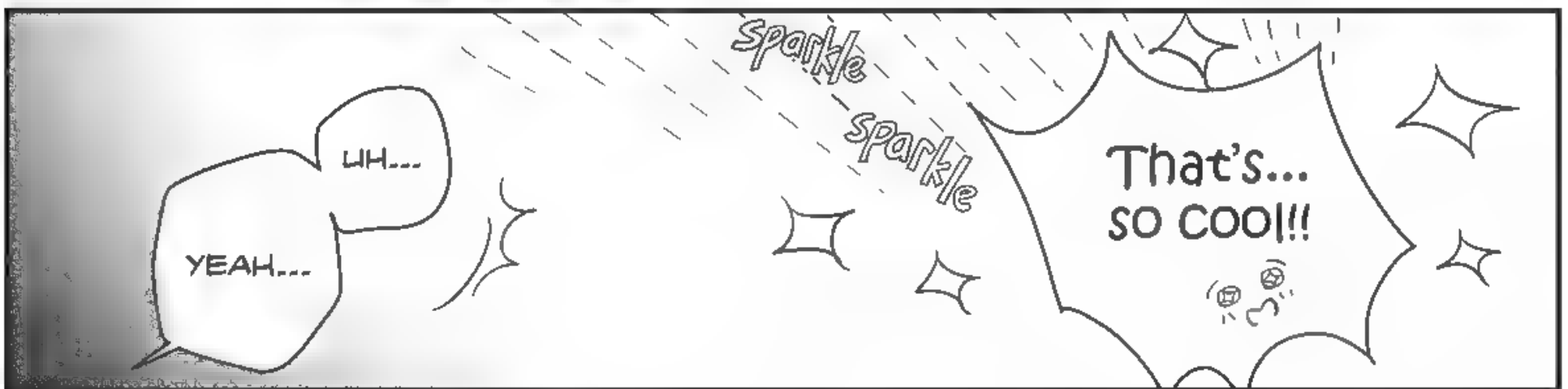
HM?



LIENO-
YAMA,
ARE
YOU...





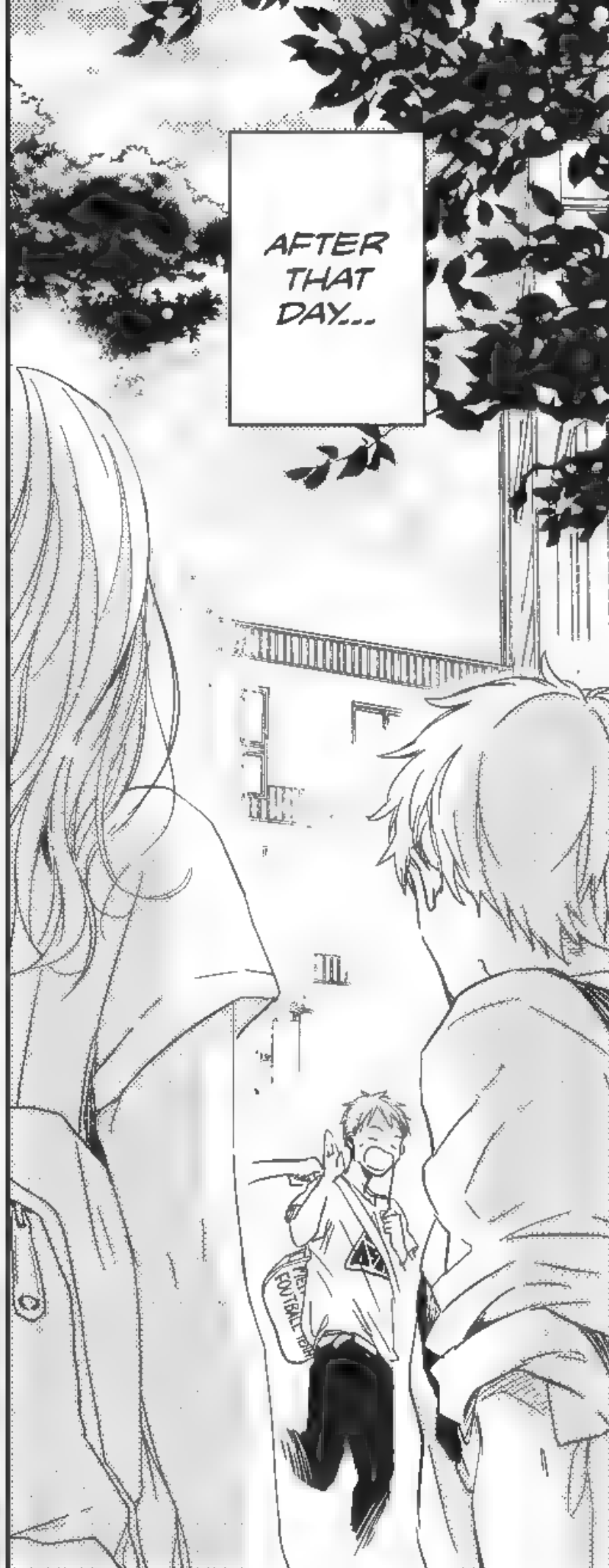


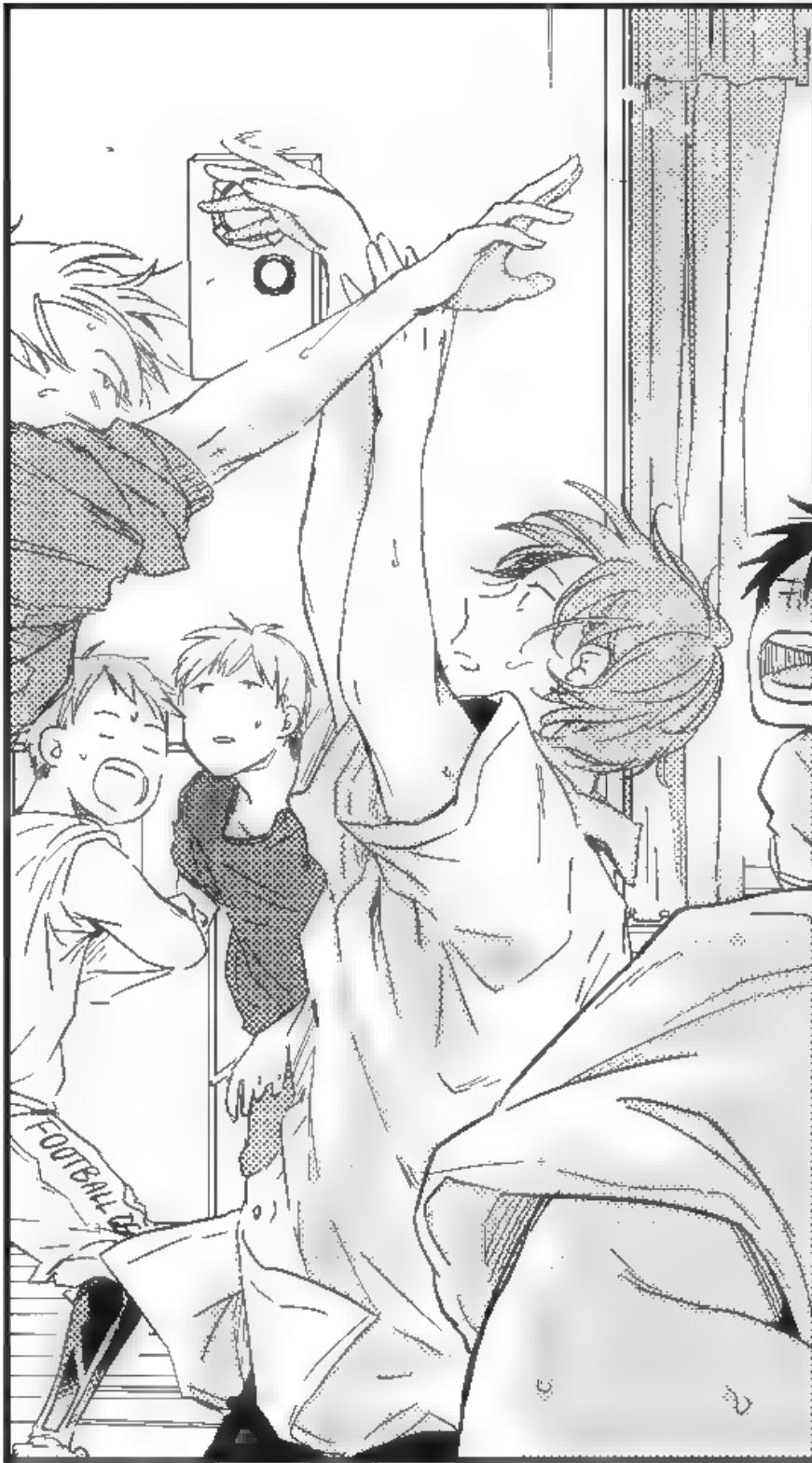
I wanna hear it!

Just thought I'd flesh it out a little.

It's not a Big deal or anything.







EVERYTHING
WAS
PROGRESSING
WITHOUT
A HITCH.



AND
THEN...

SO HE
CAN LAUGH
FOR
REAL...



AND
WE CAN
HAVE
ONE
SONG
WITH
LYRICS.

WE SHOULD
MAKE SIMPLE
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR A FEW OF
OUR SONGS
SO HE CAN
PLAY
ALONG.



I WAS
THINKING
WE COULD
GRADUALLY
ADD LYRICS
TO OUR
OTHER
SONGS
LATER
ON.

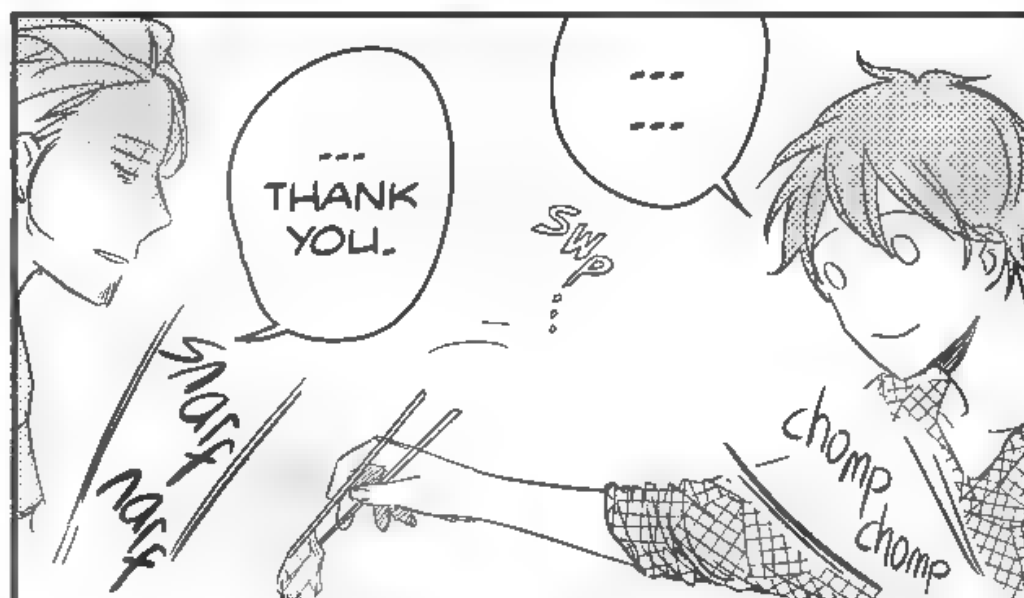
WE'RE
AN INSTRU-
MENTAL
BAND ANY-
WAYS.

SO WE
SOUND
FINE
WITH JUST
THREE
PEOPLE
PLAYING.



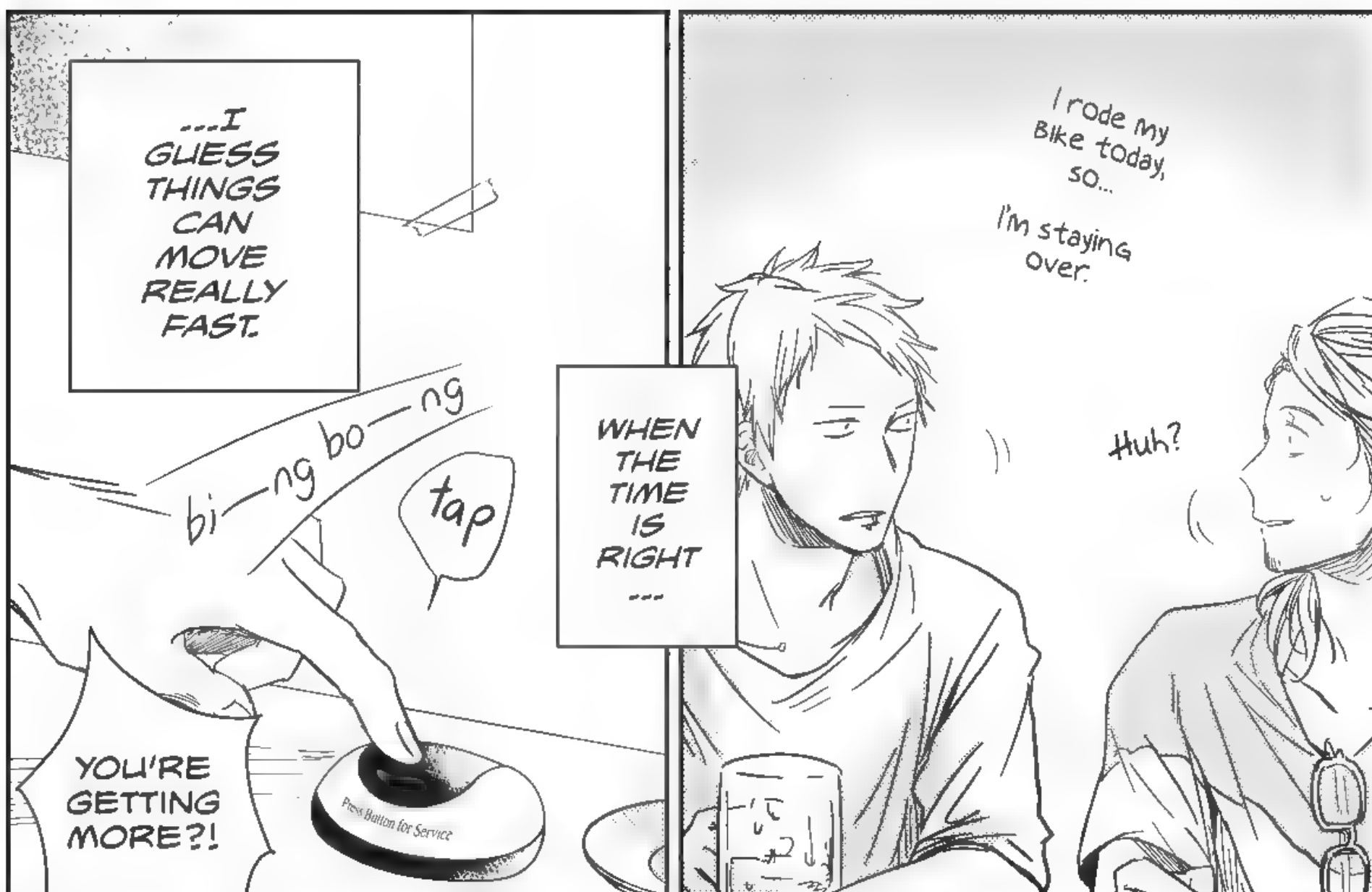
IT WON'T
BE ENOUGH
TIME TO RUN
THROUGH THE
SONGS WE
ALREADY
HAVE, BUT
HONESTLY I
THINK IT'S
BETTER THAT
WAY.

SINCE
THIS
IS OUR
FIRST
SHOW,
IT'LL BE
A SHORT
SET.



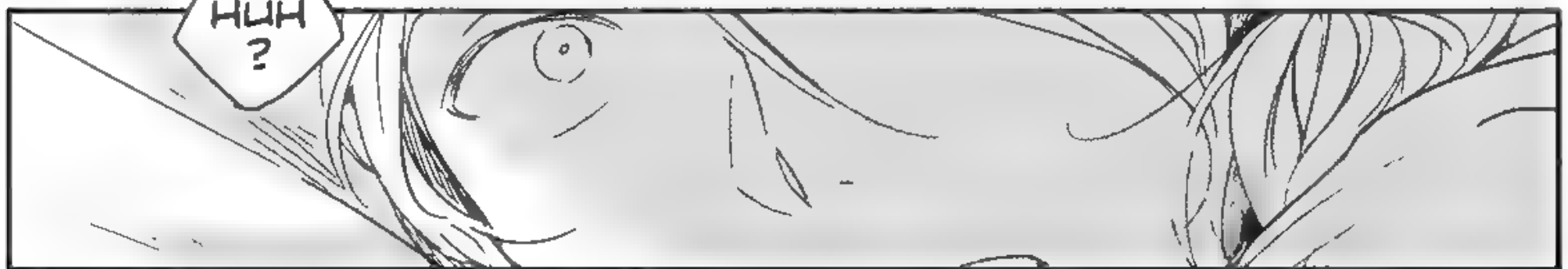
BEFORE WE KNEW IT...

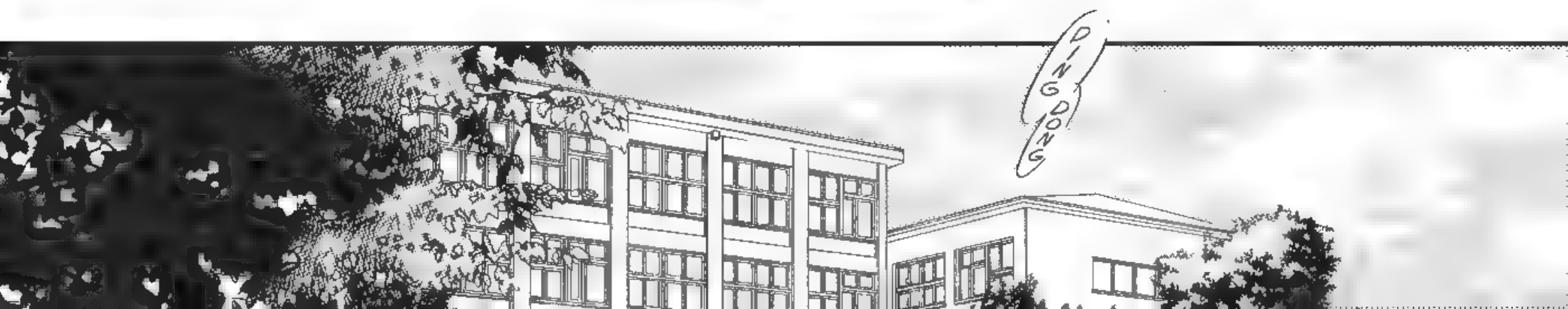
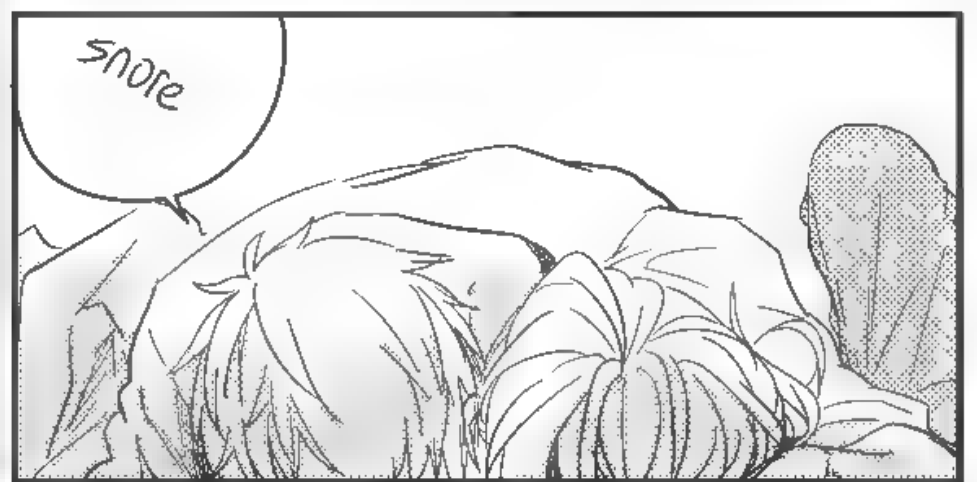
...PLANS FOR OUR CONCERT WERE SET.

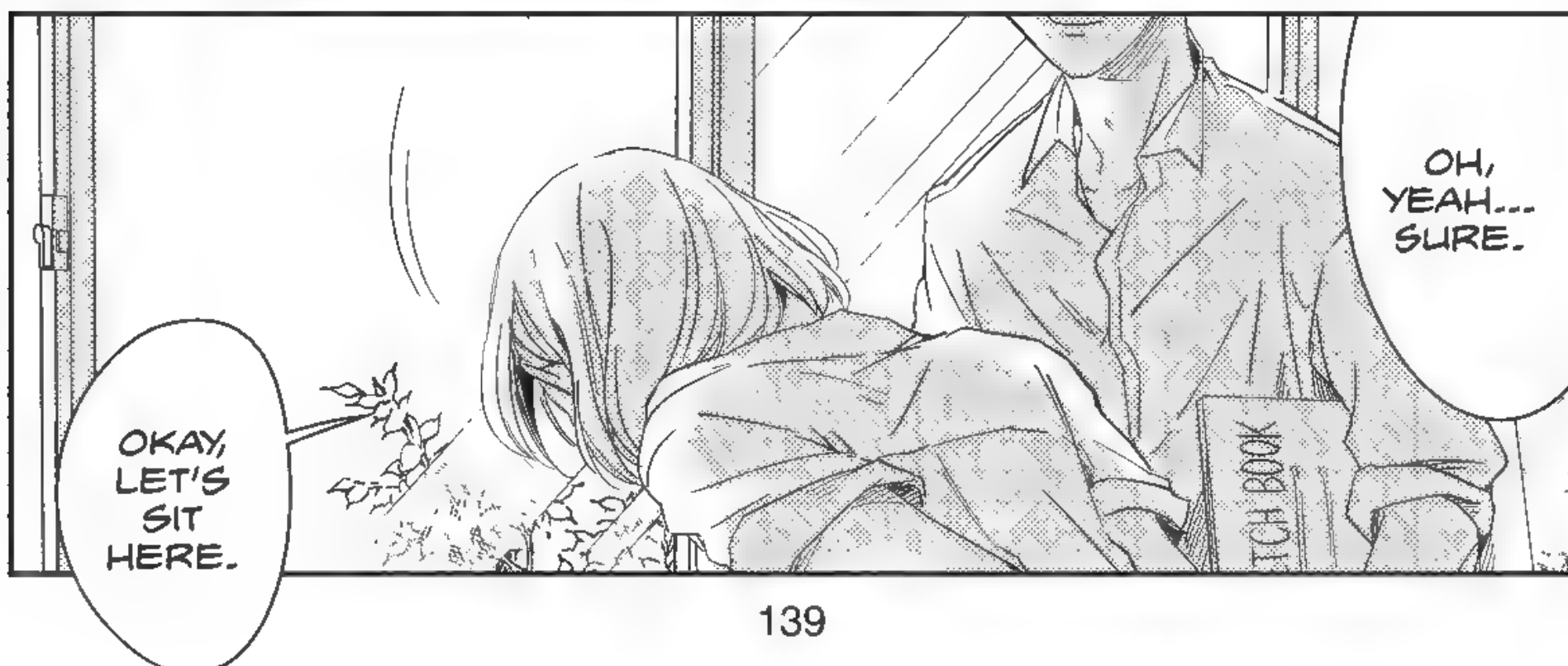
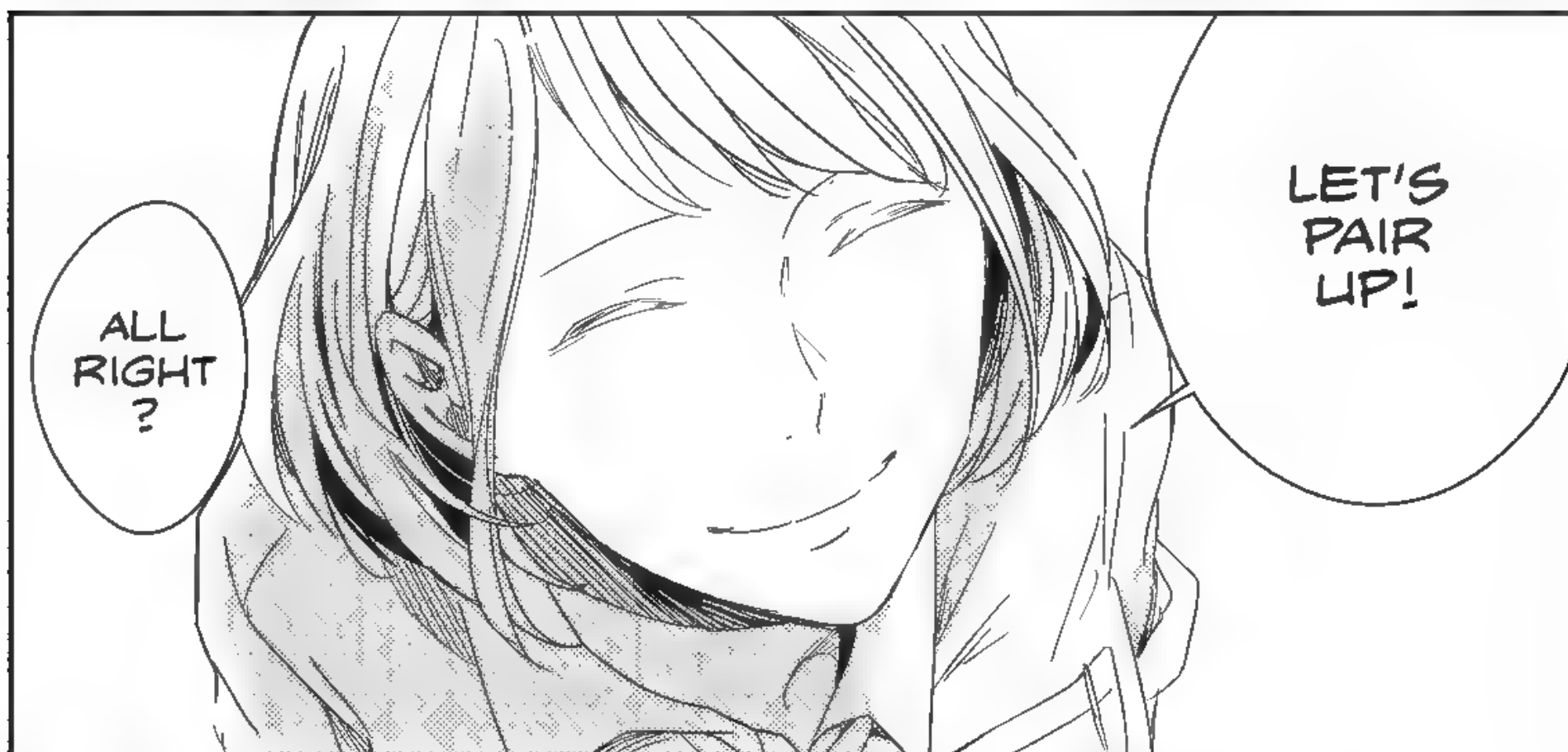
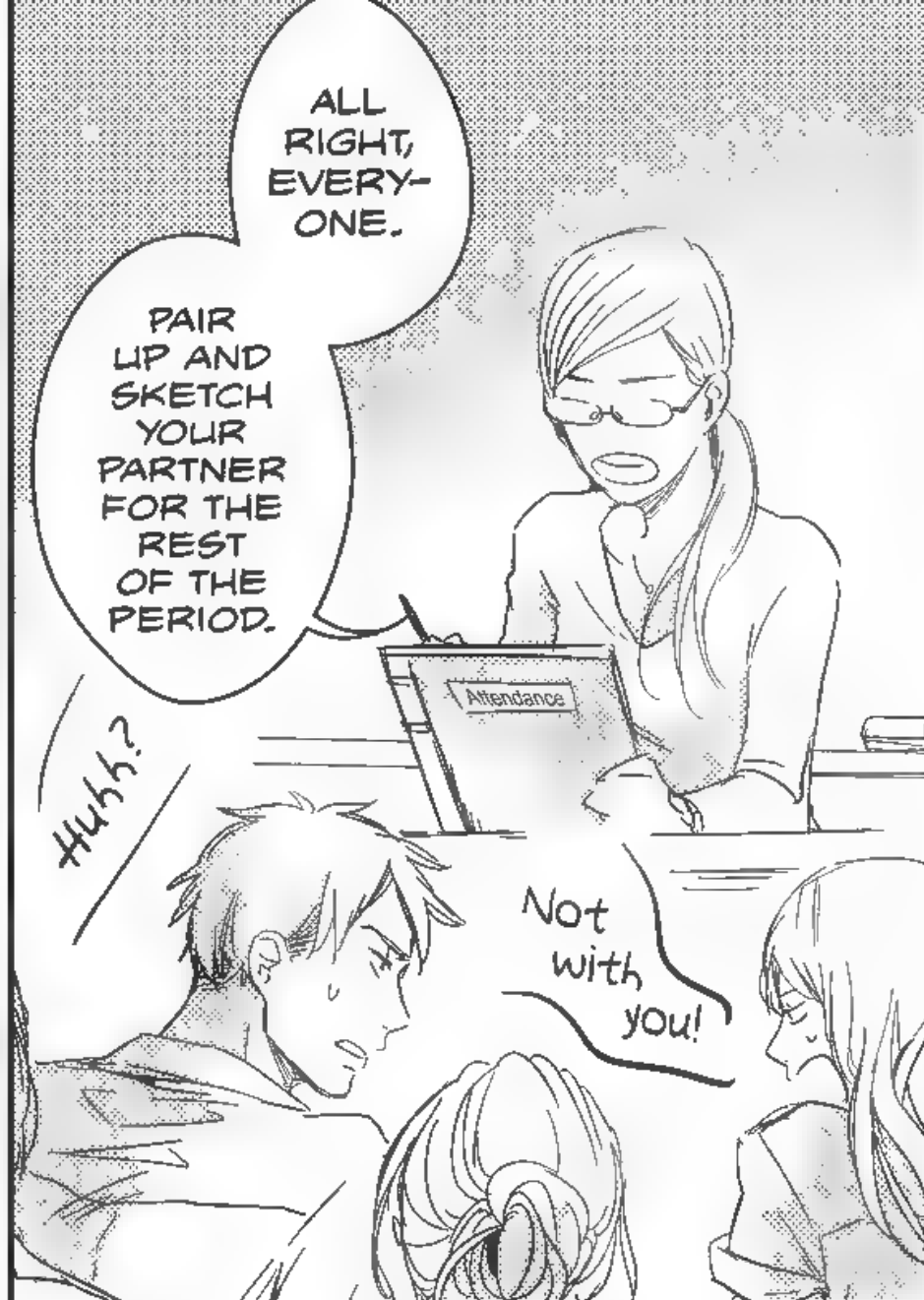


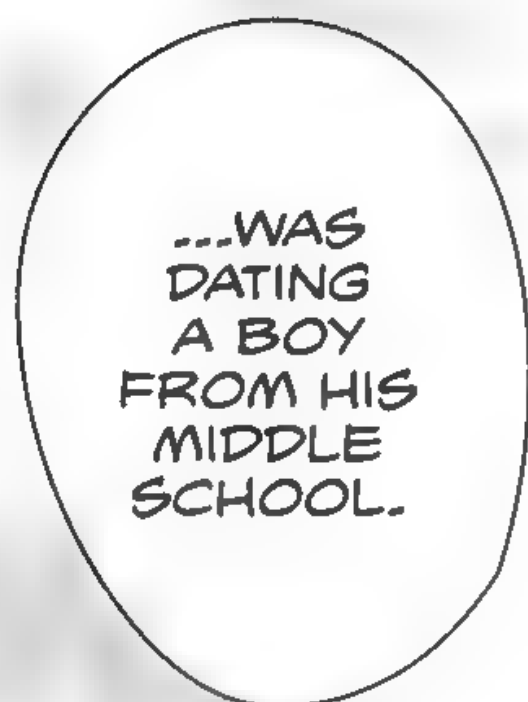


dizzy
dizzy











HUH
?

AND
...

...THAT
BOY
SUDDENLY
COMMITTED
SUICIDE
LAST
YEAR.

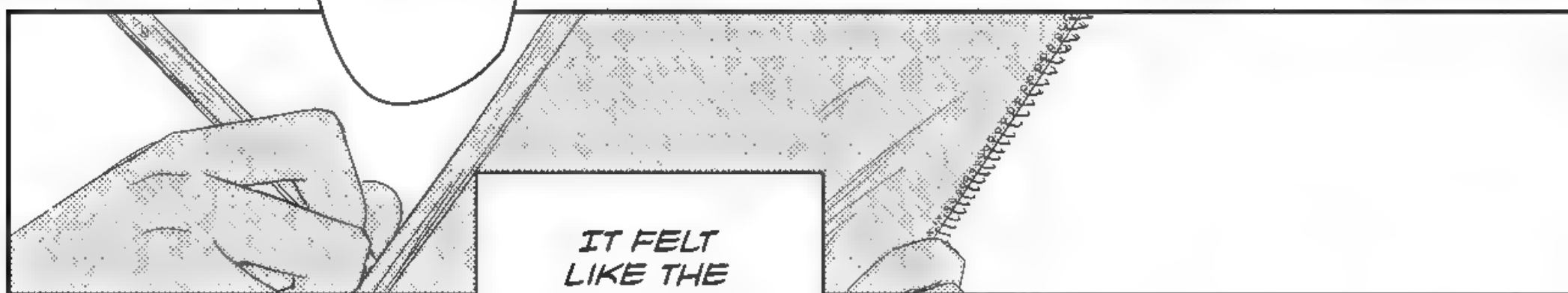


THE
RUMOR
IS
THAT...

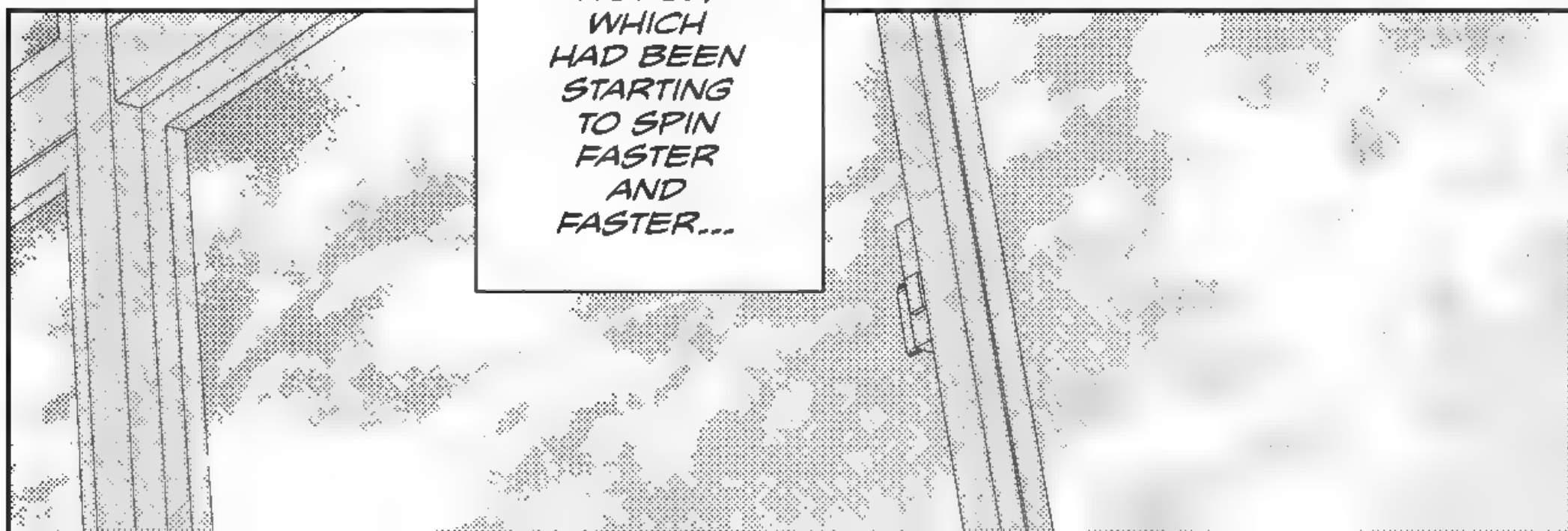
...HIS
SUICIDE
HAD
SOMETHING
TO DO
WITH
SATO.



SO,
UENO-
YAMA...



IT FELT
LIKE THE
WORLD,
WHICH
HAD BEEN
STARTING
TO SPIN
FASTER
AND
FASTER...



...SUDDENLY...



DON'T YOU
THINK YOU
SHOULD
KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE
FROM
SATO?

...STOPPED.

Haruki Nakayama (22)

178 cm
(Grad school student)

Birthday: 7/13 Sign: Cancer Blood Type: O

Bass → Fujigen
Neo Classic Series Jazz Bass
Woodgrain finish
Plays fingerstyle

Favorite Music: Prefers lighter
music (compared to the other guys) and pop.
Drawn to Japanese rock and light,
slow-tempo dance.
He's still diligent about listening to
different genres.

Avoids music that's too mellow
or too intense.

Film Major
Loves French New Wave films.

Family: Lives by himself.
(Moved from the country to the city.)

Dad, mom, and older sister
are back home.



Piercings:
Ears are pierced
but wears earrings
only some-
times.

First Appearance

Pompadour in front,
framing parts on side

Brows: Not too thin

Eyes: Almond shaped

Face: Long

Long
face

Full lips

Goatee

Hair: Has a little bit of wave.
Fine, thin, and soft.



Chapter 2

Fluffy style



Chapter 4

One length, tied back



Chapter 5

All tied up



Ch. 5 End

Asymmetric



Sadako

It'll happen at some point.



Chapter 6

Tied back with half
down to the side



Haruki's Seven Transformations!

given

by Natsuki Kizu

LIKE A
BROKEN
RECORD
...

...LAST
YEAR...

THE
SAME
WORDS
KEPT
REPEAT-
ING...

...
DATING
A
BOY...

...
COM-
MITTED
SUICIDE
...

...
OVER
AND
OVER
AGAIN
IN MY
HEAD.

TAPS

chapter 6
given

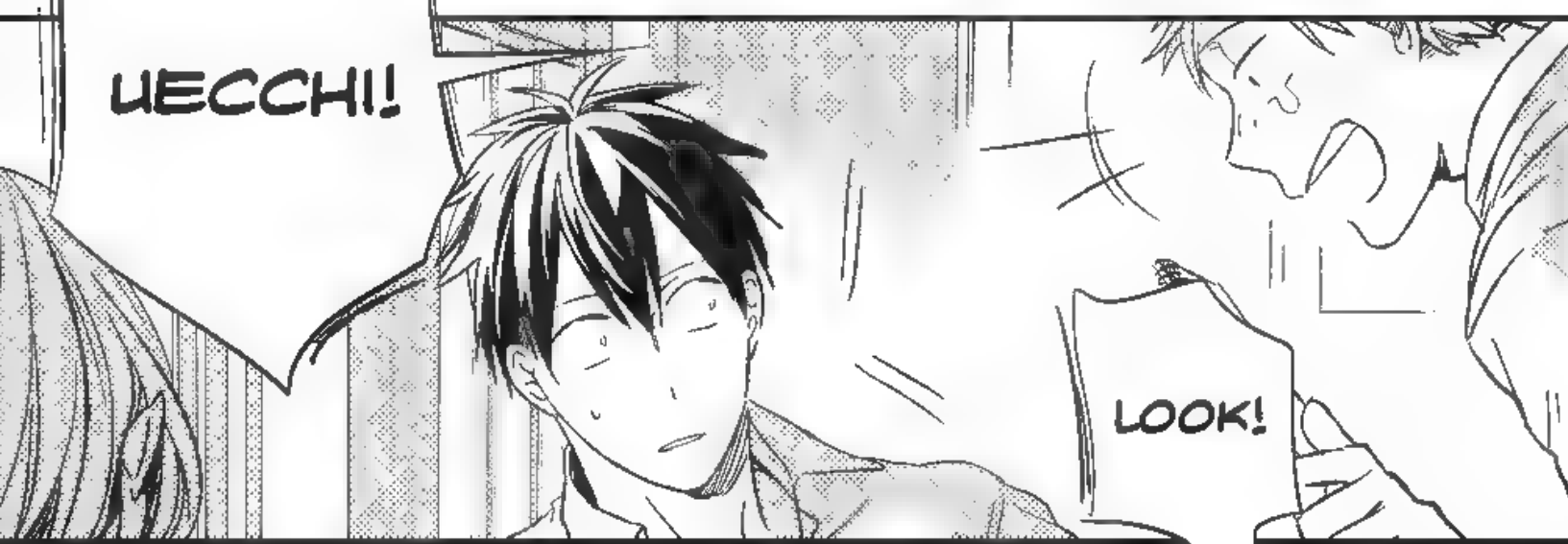




WHAT
HA—

...
MAFLIYU
...?

WHAT
DID...



UECCHI!

LOOK!



GYA HAI!

NO, BUT
THIS IS
HILARI-
OUS!!

HEY,
KNOCK
IT
OFF!!

CHECK OUT
UEKI'S MAD
DRAWING
SKILLS!
LOOKS JUST
LIKE ME,
RIGHT?!

BLA—RG



THAT LAST
THING
I SAID...
THAT WAS
OVER THE
LINE.



YOSHIDA.



IT
WAS A
CLASS-
MATE
OF HIS.

A GUY
NAMED
YOSHIDA.
HE PASSED
AWAY
SUDDENLY.



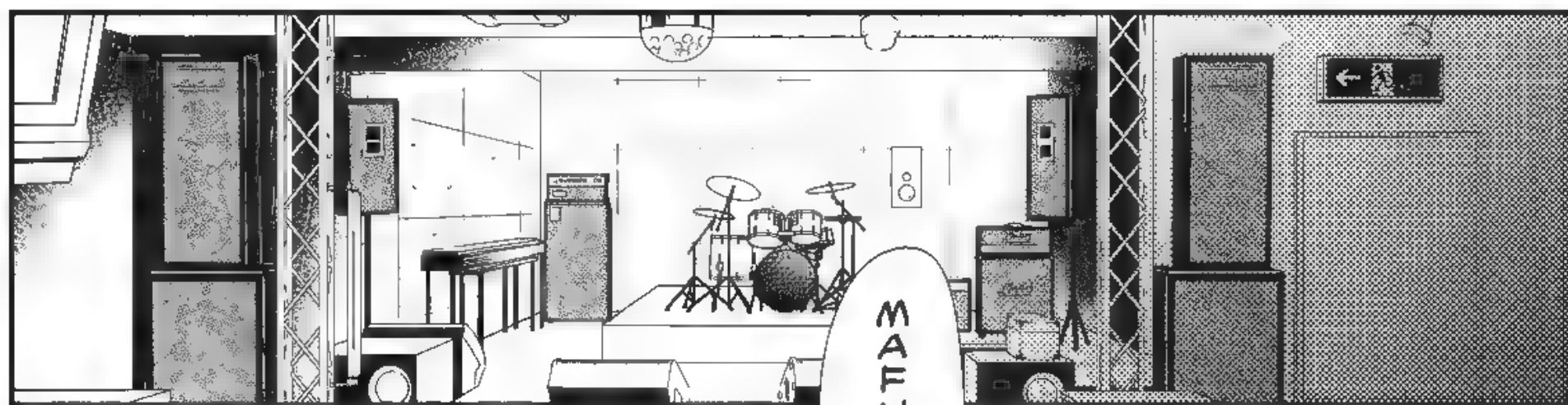
"IS
THAT..."

"...YOSHIDA'S
GUITAR?"



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

WHAT IS
THIS WEIRD
FEELING?
WHY DO I
FEEL LIKE
I'M GOING
TO THROW
UP?



!!-!!-!!-!!

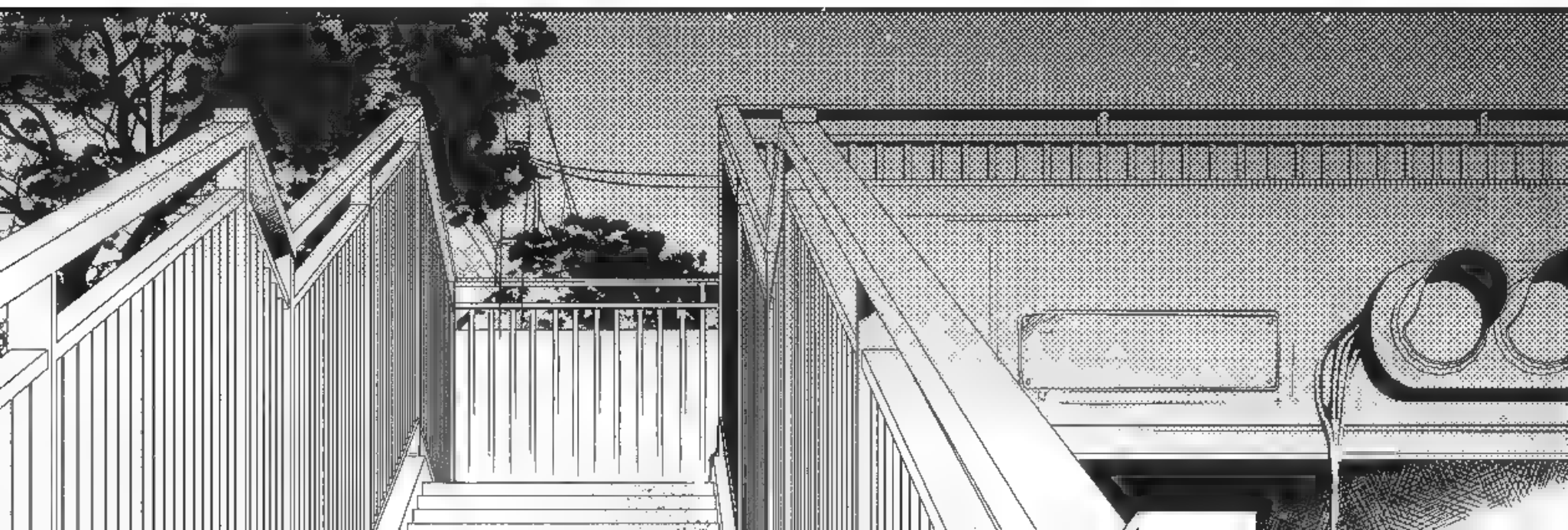
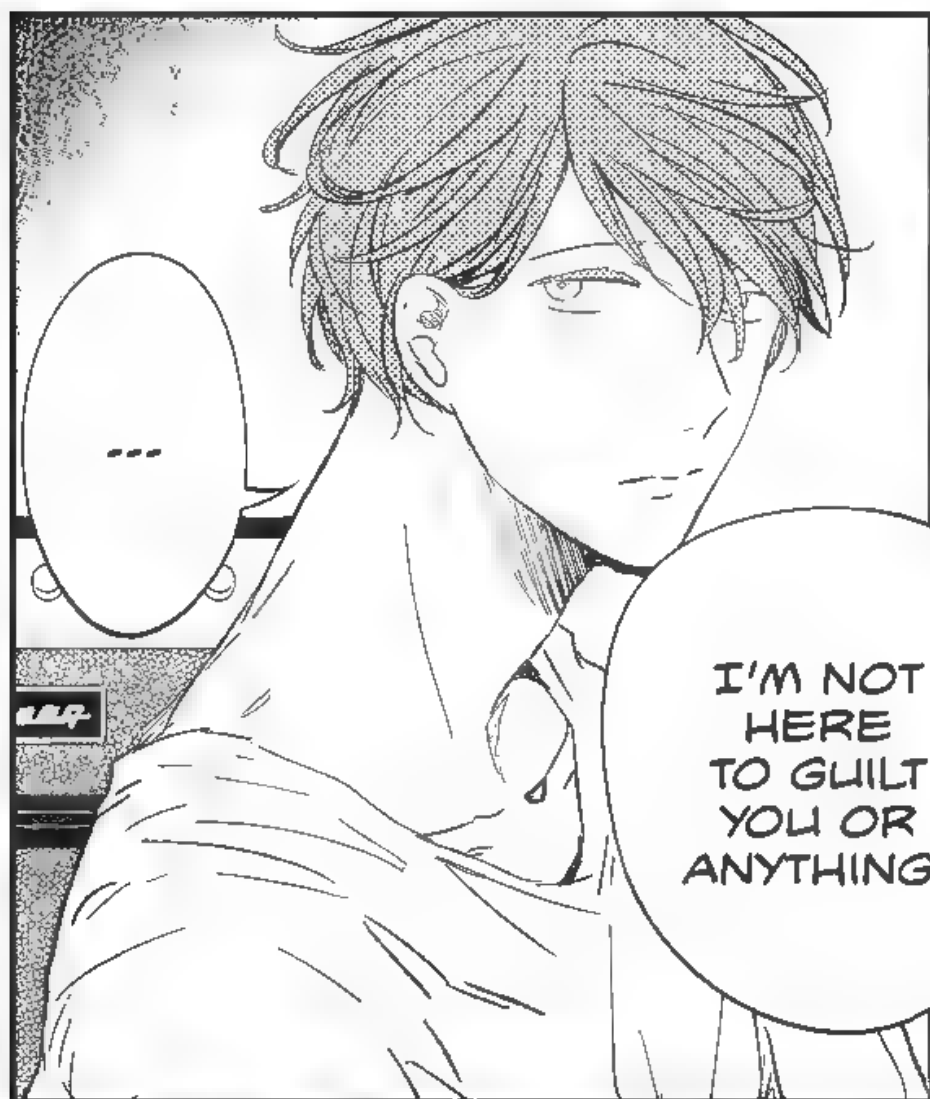


YOUR
FRIEND'S
HERE.

point

YO!







...
YEAH.

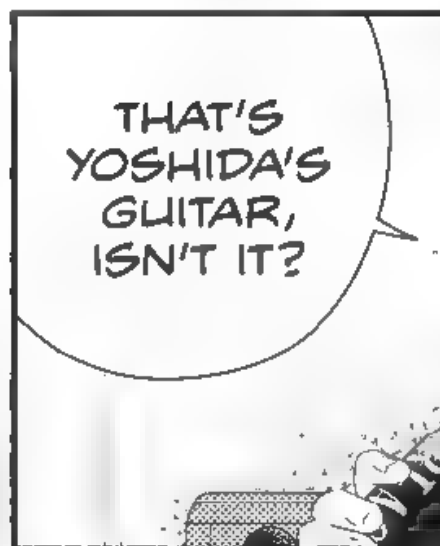
WE
HAVEN'T
REALLY
TALKED
SINCE THE
FUNERAL.

SO
YOU'VE
STARTED
PLAYING
MUSIC?



I TOLD
HER YOU
STARTED
PLAYING,
AND
SHE WAS
REALLY
HAPPY
TO HEAR
IT.

YOU
HAVEN'T
SEEN
HER
IN A
WHILE,
HAVE
YOU?



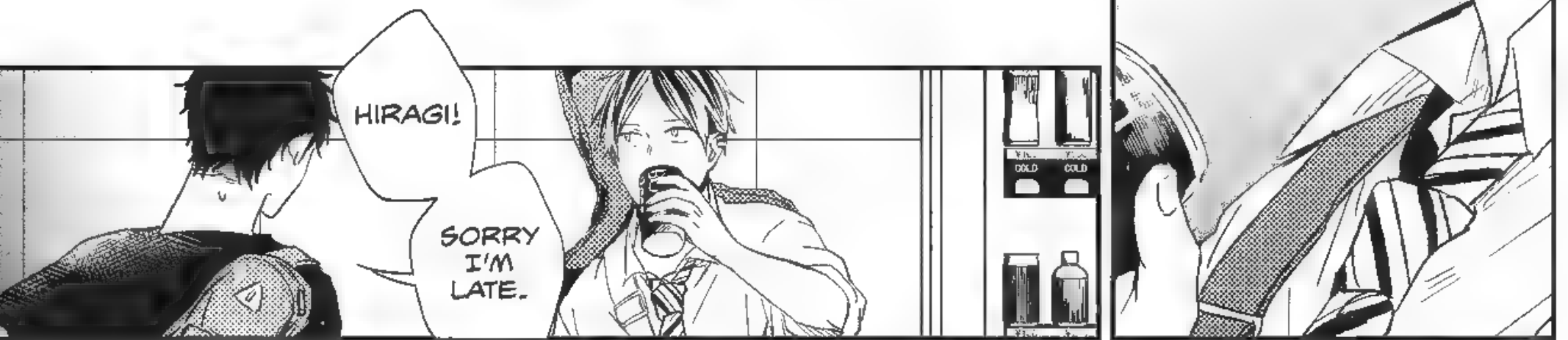
THAT'S
YOSHIDA'S
GUITAR,
ISN'T IT?



...HIS
MOM
WANTED
ME TO
TAKE IT.

RIGHT...
SHE
ALWAYS
WAS
SUPPORTIVE
OF YOU
GUYS.



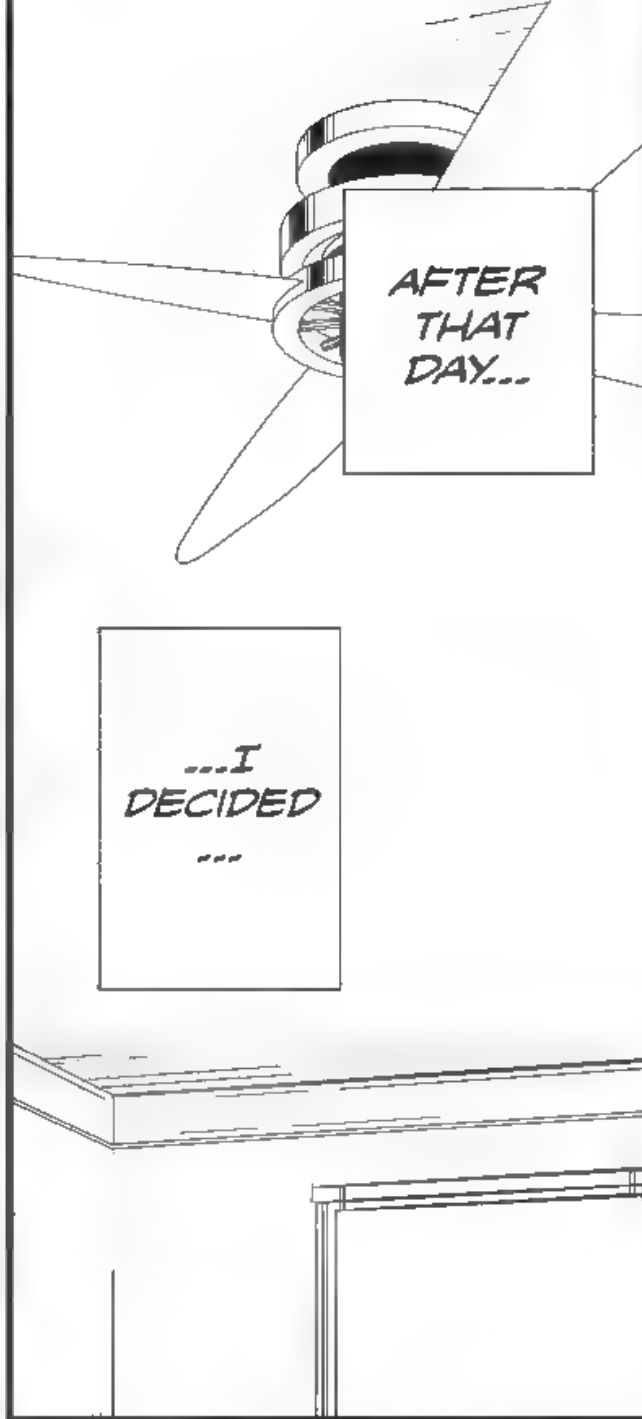






---NOT
TO DO
ANY-
THING---

---ABOUT
WHAT
I'D
BEEN
TOLD.



AFTER
THAT
DAY...

---I
DECIDED



EVEN
THOUGH
THAT
MADE
ME A
COWARD.



IN ANOTHER WORLD

sprout

ACK!

RITSUKA'S
GOT STARING-
INTO-SPACE
SICKNESS
AGAIN!

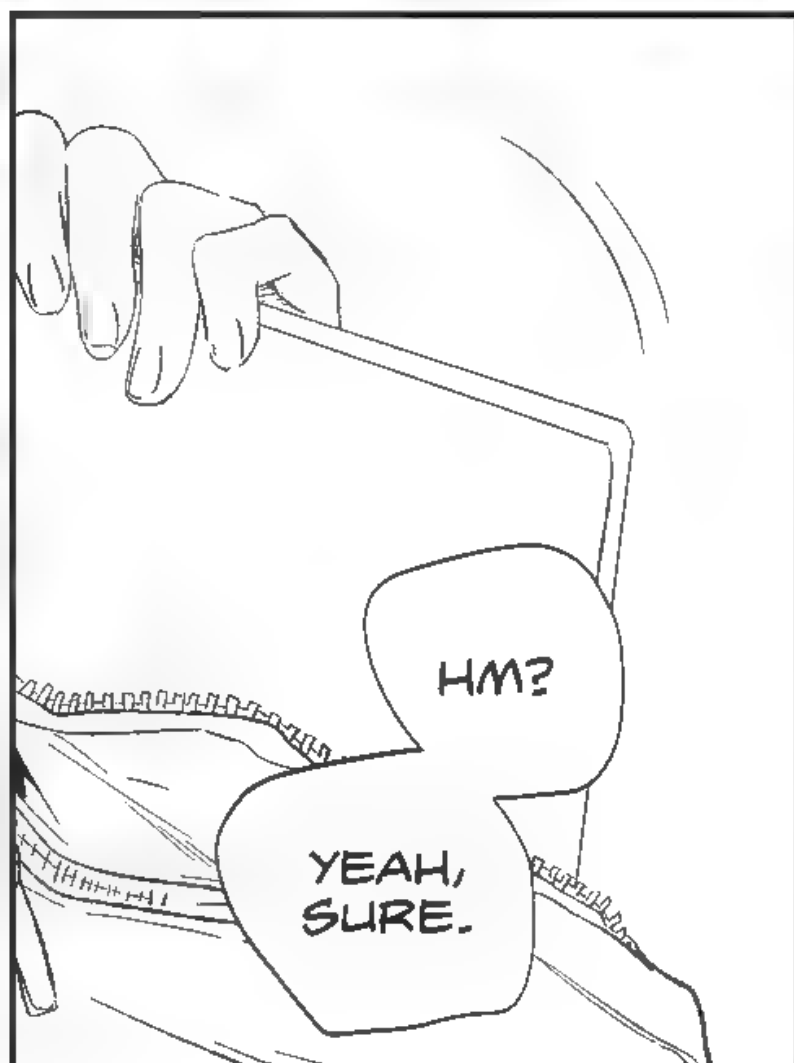
YEAH,
I'VE BEEN
SEEING
HIM DO
THAT A
LOT.

Welcome
Back



I'M
HOME!

HEY,
UENOYAMA.





IT'S
REALLY
GREAT.



...I
THINK
THAT'S
PERFECT
FOR
MAFLUYU'S
VOICE.

A
LITTLE
UN-
USUAL,
BUT...



KEEP IT
UP. YOU'LL
BE BACK
TO THIS
WORLD IN
NO TIME.

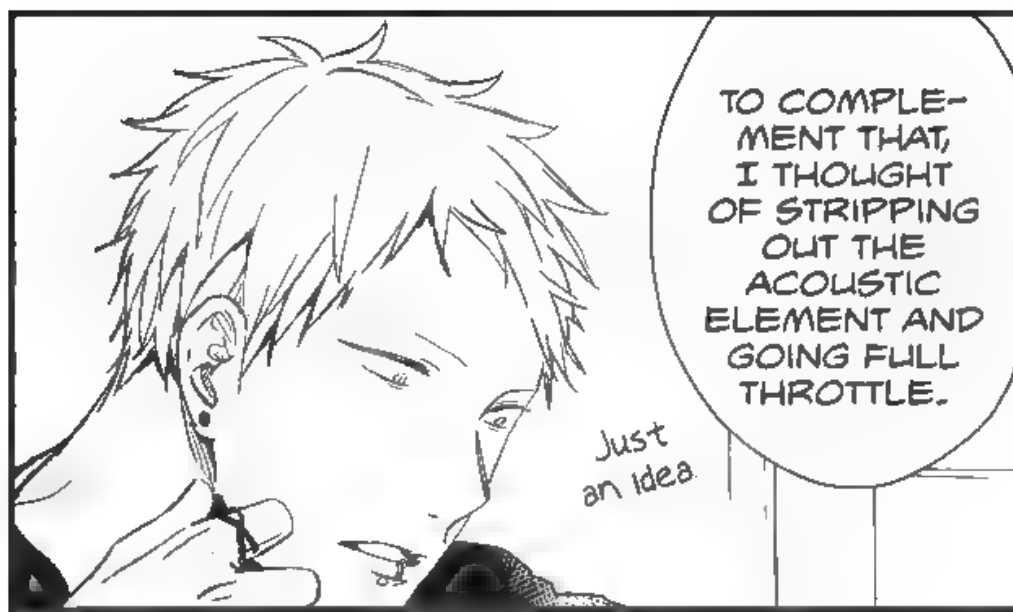
Whuh...



HARUKI
SAID
HE'LL ADD
A BASS
TRACK
WITH THE
"RIGHT
FEELING,"
AS USUAL.
In the studio.



SO I
WENT
AHEAD
AND
ADDED
A DRUM
TRACK AT
HOME.





LIKE
HEARING
SOMEONE
SCREAM
WITHOUT
SCREAMING,
IF THAT
MAKES ANY
SENSE.

IT HIT ME
LIKE AN
ELECTRIC
SHOCK.



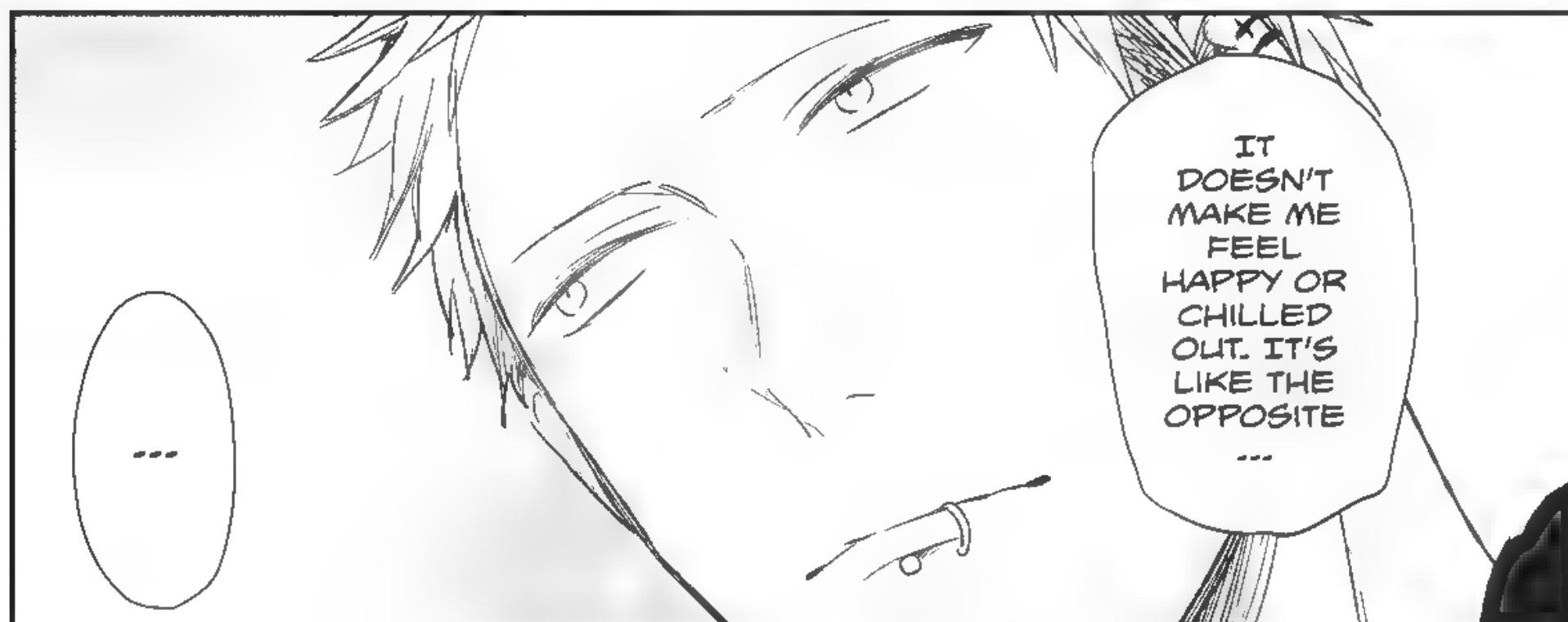
Like
taiko

THAT'S
WHY I
LIKE
BEATING
ON MY
DRUMS.

YEAH,
EXACTLY
...

IT'D BE A
WASTE IF HE
WAS JUST QUIET
AND WELL-
BEHAVED ALL
THE TIME. HE
NEEDS TO LET
THAT EMOTION
OUT.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK IT
IS? THAT
POWER...





YOU SHOULD HAVE MAFLIYU WRITE THE LYRICS.

IT'LL BE HARD FOR HIM, BUT...



YOU HAVE THE MELODY ALL WORKED OUT, RIGHT?



Yeah... So?

SO...



...I THINK IT'D BE GOOD FOR HIM TO DO IT.

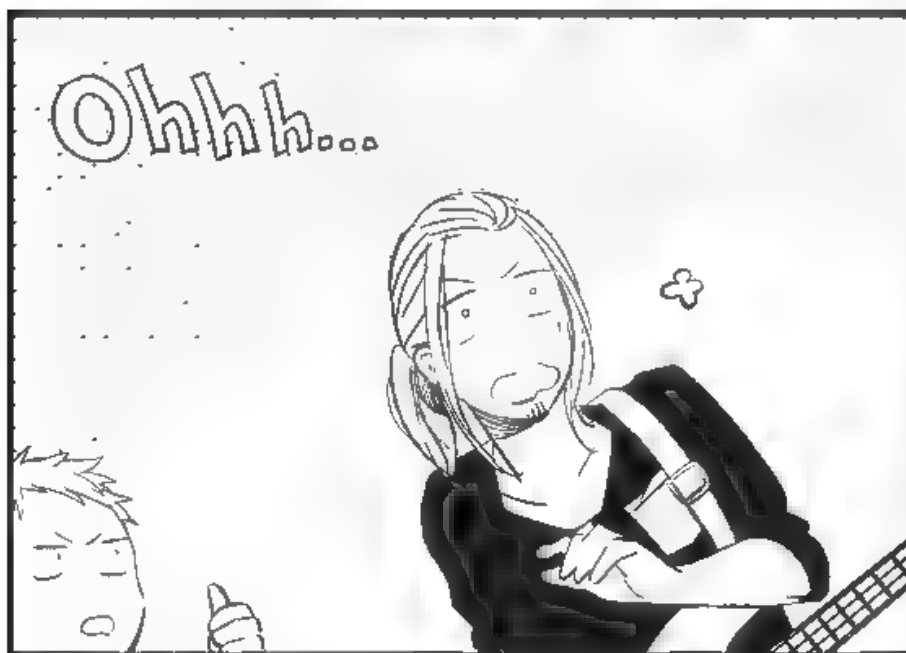


I...



...WAS THINKING THE EXACT SAME THING.







YOU GOTTA HAVE...
SOMETHING
YOU
WANNA
EXPRESS,
RIGHT?!

Not
really

NO?

LIKE
THE, UH...
THE
COSMOS
WITHIN
YOU...?

COS-
MOS?

We're
back
in
space?

Music's
all
about
MOOD.

WHAT-
EVER
YOU
WANT!

THAT'S
THE
WORST
ADVICE.

Ever

WHAT
SHOULD
I
WRITE?



**SHUT UP,
PLEASE.**

YOU'RE
NOT THE
BOSS,
EITHER!

AT LEAST
I'M TRYING
TO HELP,
UNLIKE
SOME
PEOPLE!

**SHUT UP,
PLEASE.**

EH?



OH, I'VE
GOT IT!
HOW ABOUT
YOUR
RELATION-
SHIP
EXPERI-
ENCES?
YOU'VE
BEEN
IN LOVE,
RIGHT?

THAT'S
ALWAYS
A GOOD
ONE.



THE
TURMOIL
THAT
WAS
BUILDING
UP
INSIDE
ME...

slump

That
was
so
hard

EVEN
IF YOU
PUT A
LID ON
SOME-
THING...

...THAT
DOESN'T
MAKE
WHAT'S
INSIDE
DISAP-
PEAR.

...WAS
ABOUT
TO BOIL
OVER.





HARUKI,
ARE YOU
IN LOVE
WITH
SOME-
ONE?

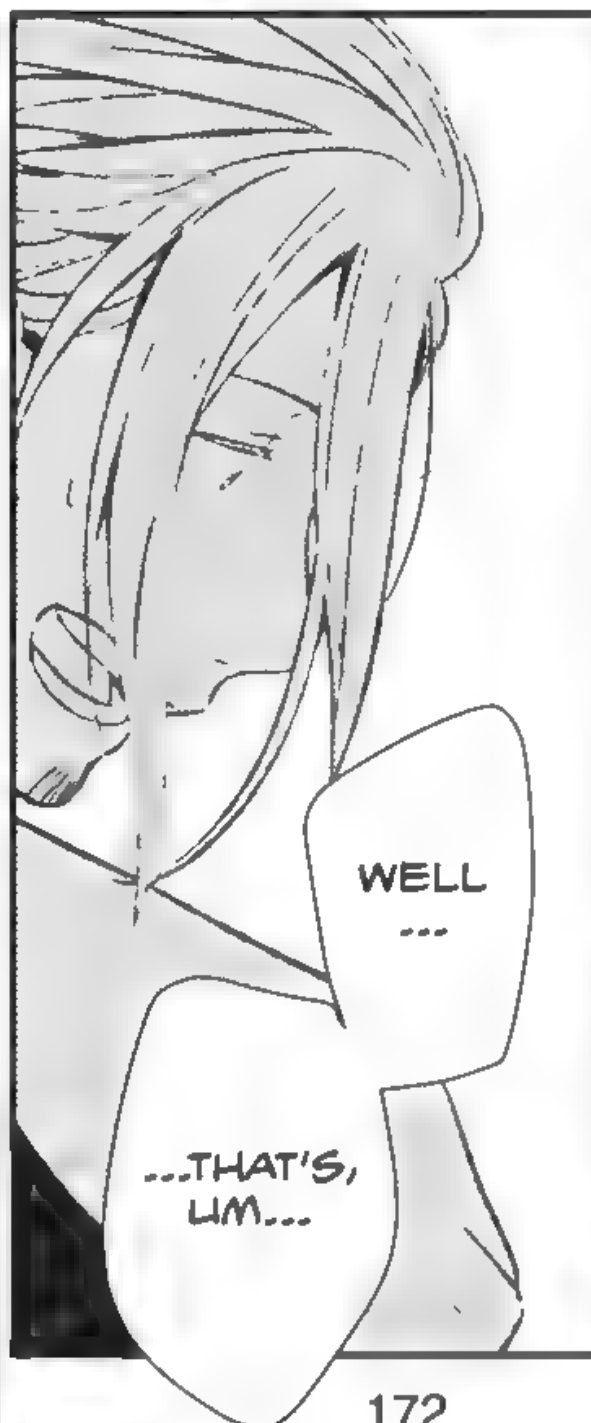
HUH?!

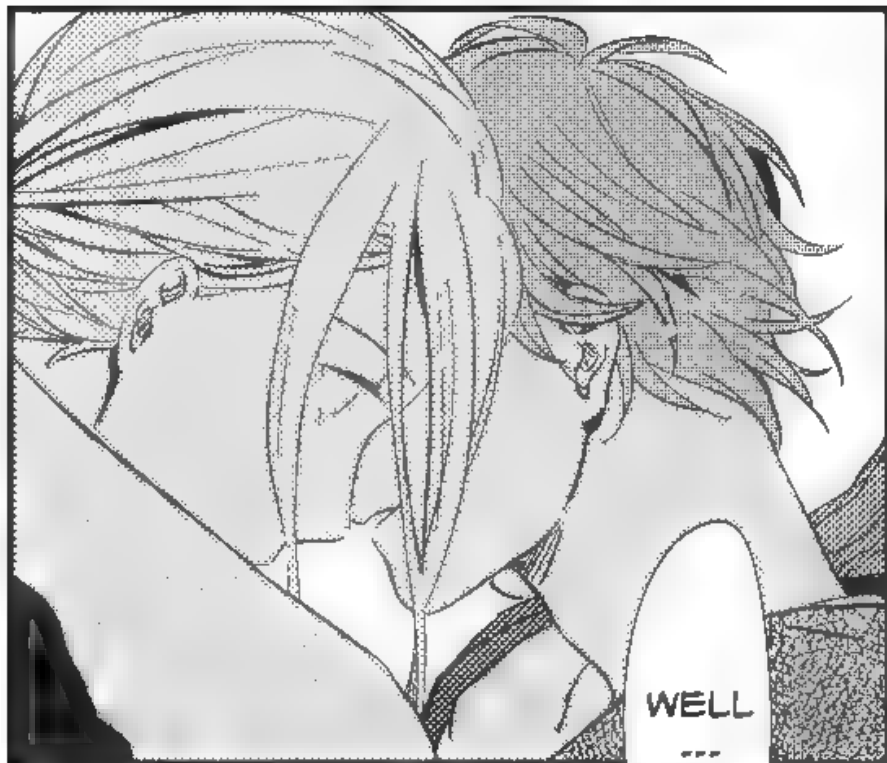
I'M...
UHH...

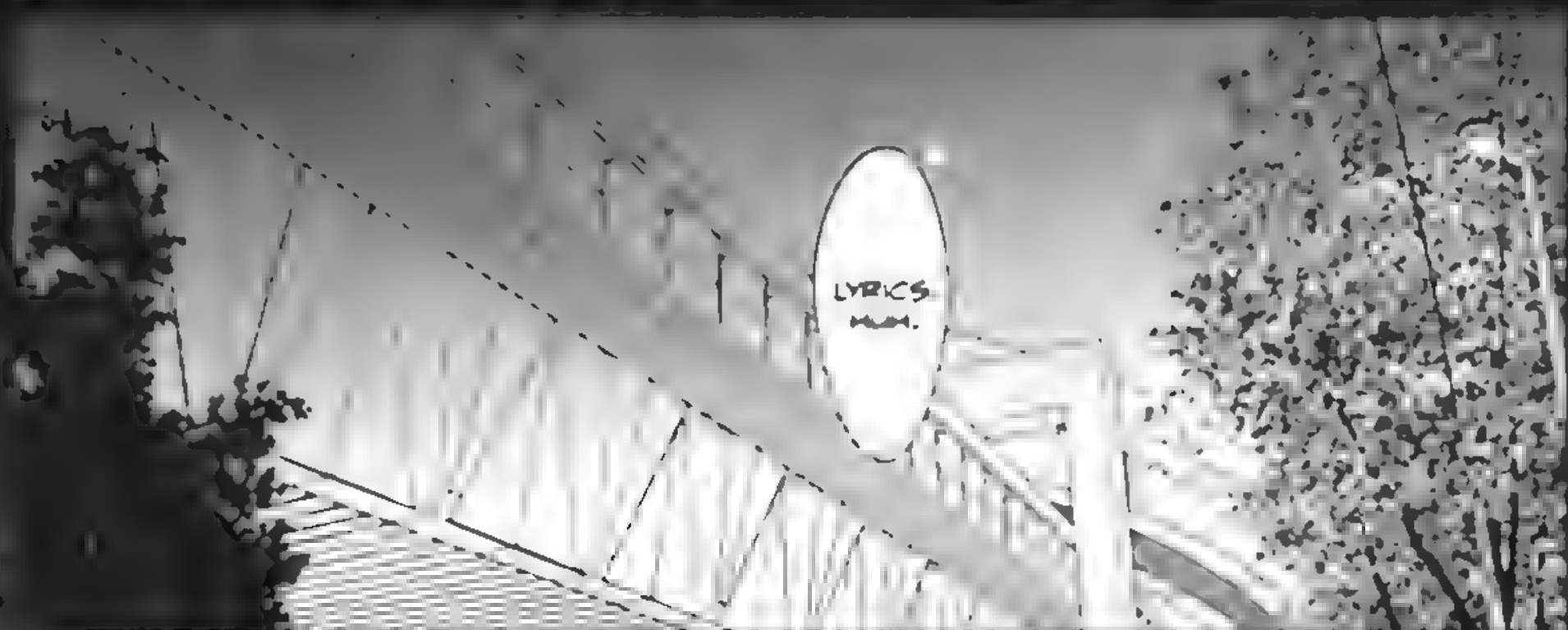
IF...

...ONE DAY
YOU WOKE UP,
AND THE
PERSON YOU
LOVE WAS
SUDDENLY
GONE FROM
THIS WORLD,
HOW WOULD
THAT MAKE
YOU FEEL? HOW
WOULD YOU
DESCRIBE
IT?

WHAT?









TODAY...
WE
WIN!

I'VE BEEN
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO THIS
DAY ALL
YEAR.



WHAT-
EVER,
MR.
SOCCER
CLUB.

WE'VE
BEEN
PRACTICING
FOR THIS
NONSTOP!

WHAT
?!

WHAT'RE
YOU TALKIN'
ABOUT?
IT'S JUST
ANOTHER
TOURNA-
MENT.



ALL
RIGHT,
GUYS,
LISTEN
UP.



UECCHI,
I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU
TOO!!

Mr Former
Basketball
Club

I'M
GONNA
TAKE A
NAP.



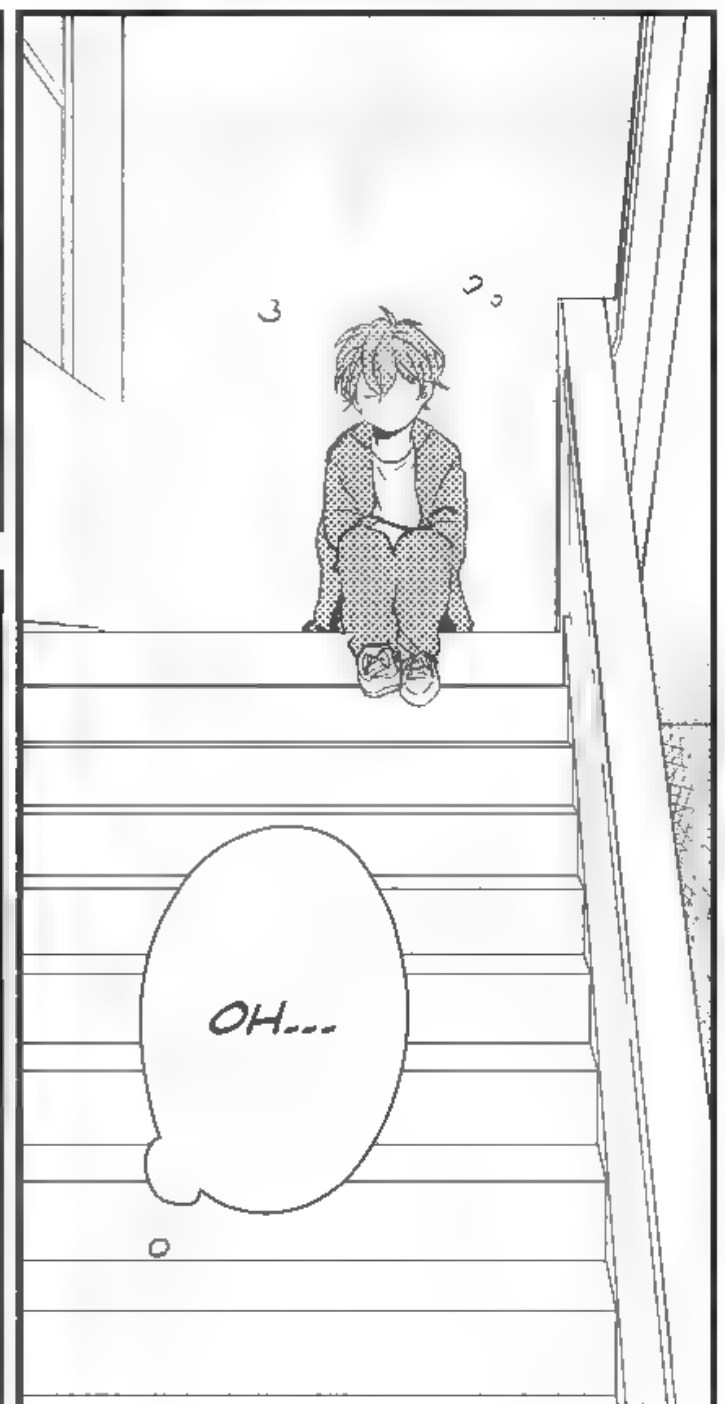
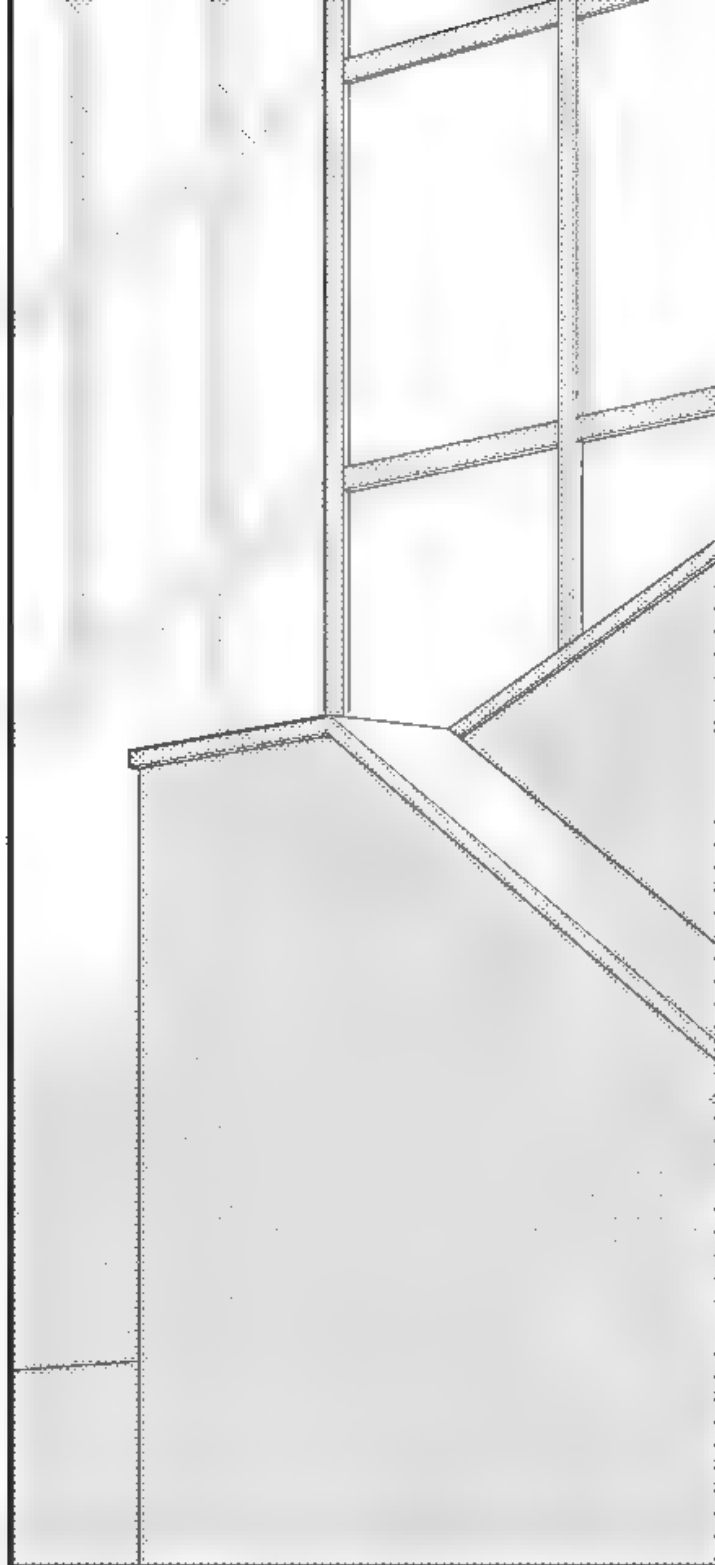
GRIND
GRIND

THIS IS
DIFFER-
ENT!

UEKI,
I'M
COUNT-
ING ON
YOU!
Mr Basket-
Ball Club

FINE,
THEN I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU
IN
SOCCER.

BUT
NOT
B-
BALL
?!





DON'T
THINK
ABOUT
IT.

HONESTLY,
I DON'T
WANT
TO BE
ALONE
WITH HIM
RIGHT
NOW.



I
STILL
...



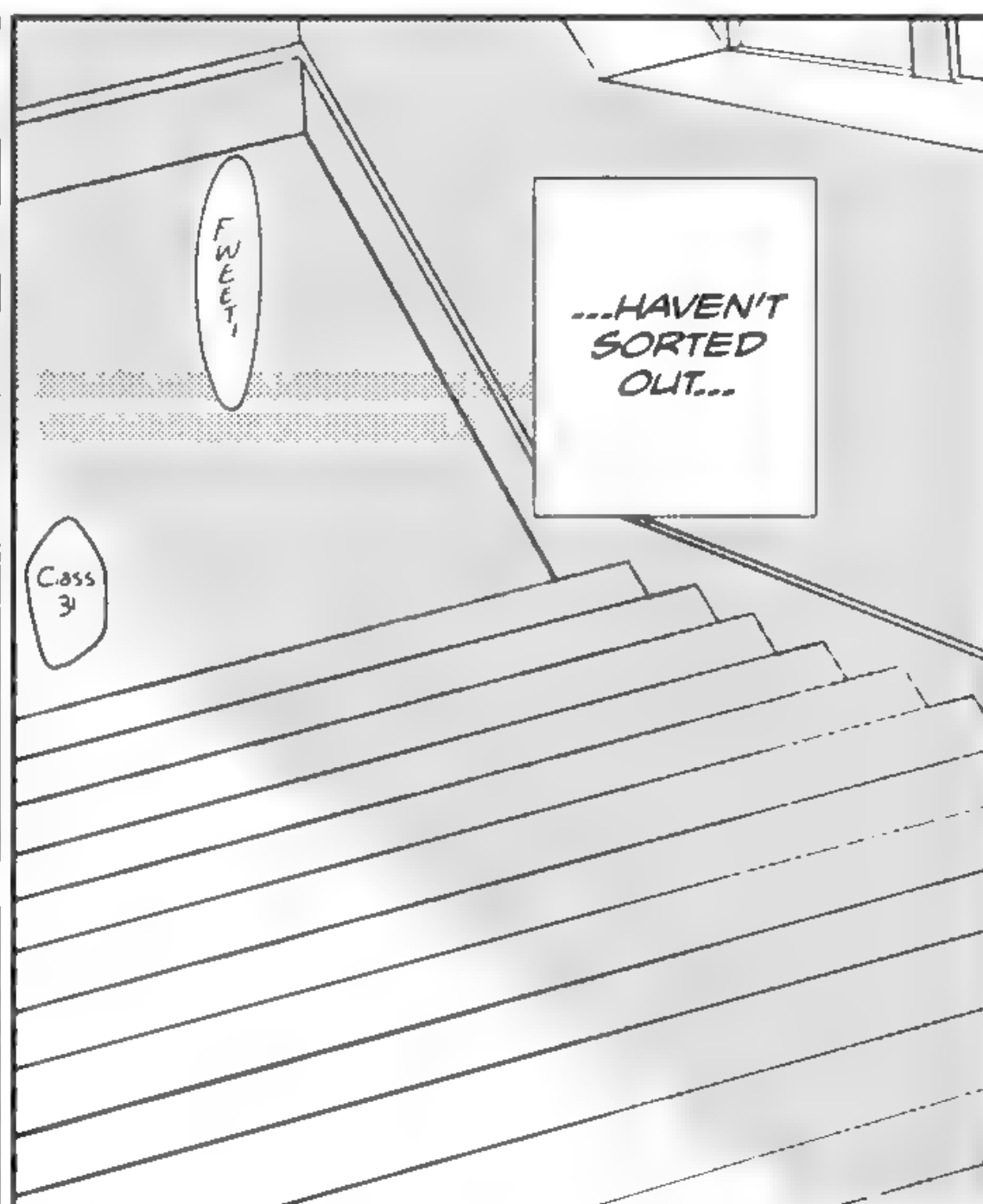
roll

RECHARG-
ING
BEFORE
THE
GAME.

AHH...
DAMN
IT.



...WHAT
I THINK
ABOUT
HIM,
OR WHAT
THIS
FEELING
IS.



FWEET!

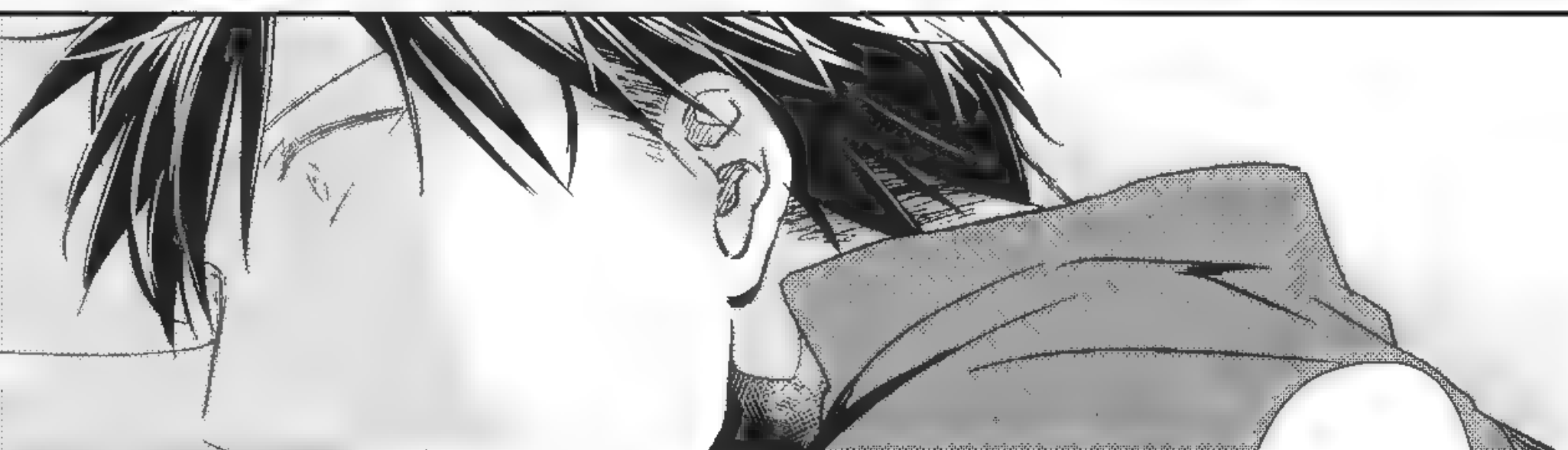
...HAVEN'T
SORTED
OUT...

Class
31





...HAD
SOMEONE
WHO I
REALLY,
REALLY
LOVED.



I
DON'T
HAVE...

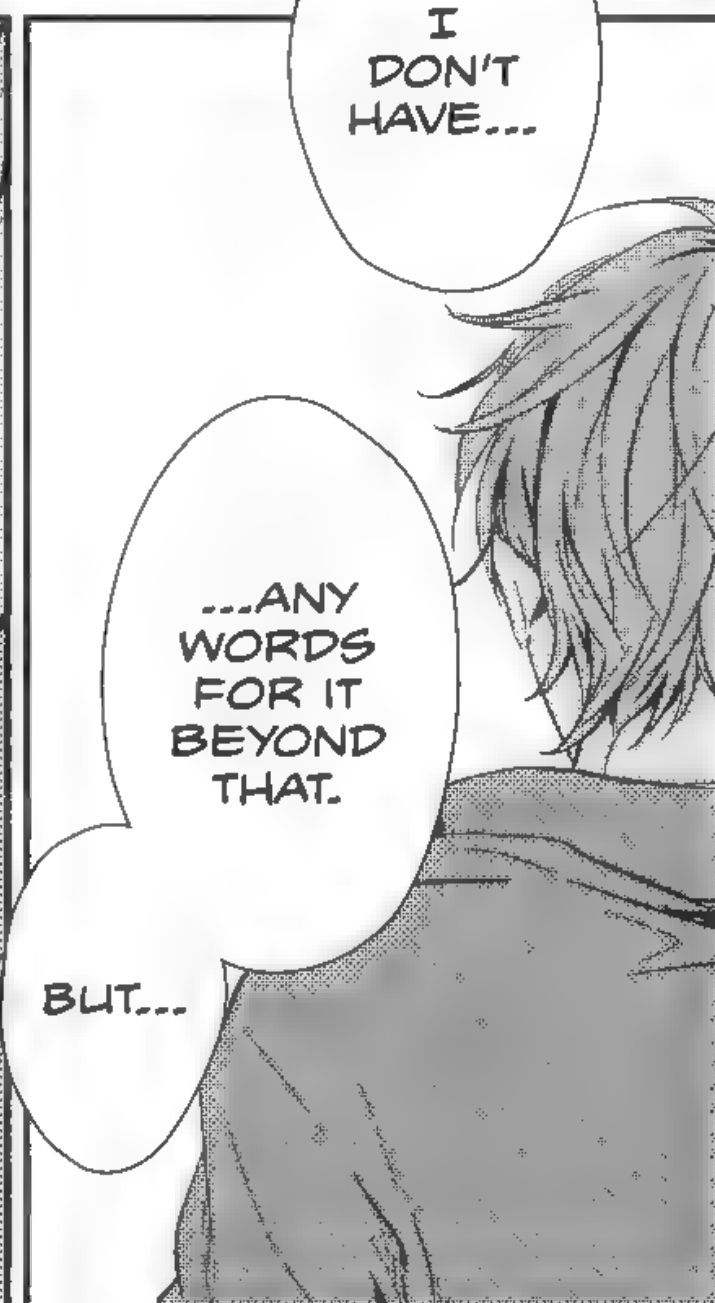


...THINK
I WANT
TO TRY
TO EX-
PRESS.

OH.



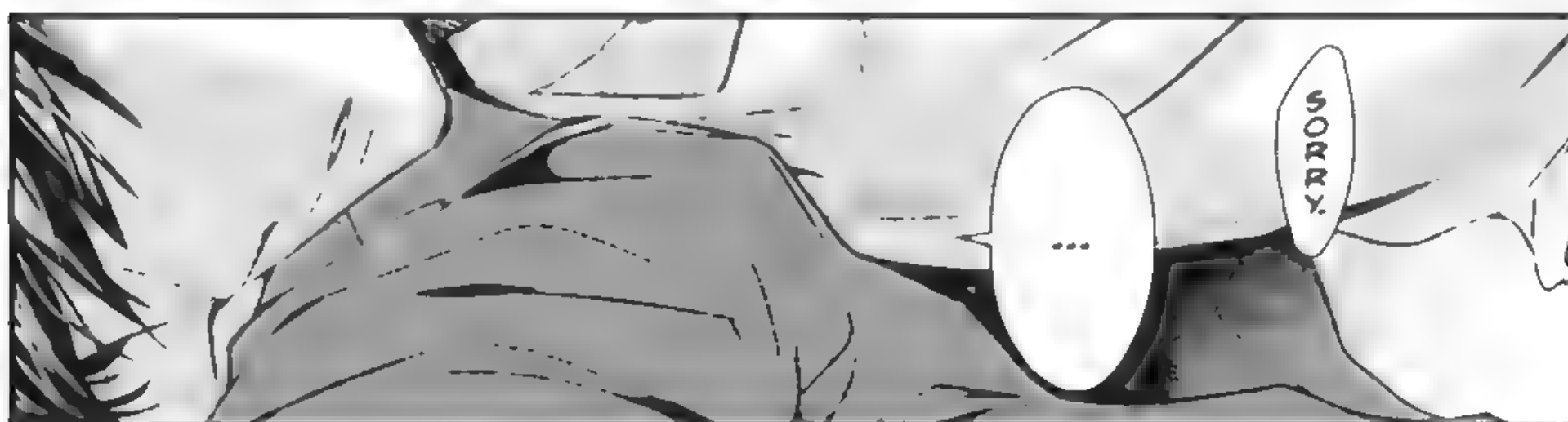
THERE
IS
SOME-
THING
THAT
I...



...ANY
WORDS
FOR IT
BEYOND
THAT.

BUT...

I
GET
IT
NOW.



THIS
THING
I'M
FEELING...



*THIS IS
JEALOUSY.*

To Be Continued...

Akihiko Kaji (20)

184 cm
(College student)

Birthday: 10/21 Sign: Libra Blood Type: A

Drums → His current band isn't that tight, but he loves drumming hard regardless.
(His previous band was a pretty intense heavy metal group.)

Headphones are Beats,
but earphones are Bose.

Favorite Music:
Heavy rock, metal, melodic
hardcore, emo, screamo,
alternative, trip hop, and
similar genres

All the way up to:
All types of classical music,
plus contemporary, ambient,
experimental, and other
instrumental genres

He's been practicing karate
and violin since he was a kid.
He's majoring in music.

Family: Currently living with a roommate.
Father is in England.
Mother is living happily with
her own family.



Brows: Thin and short

Eyes: Evil looking
Slanted upwards

Long face

Piercing

Piercing

Piercing

Rock-hard
muscles

He's tall,
with long legs.

Hair is short in the back.

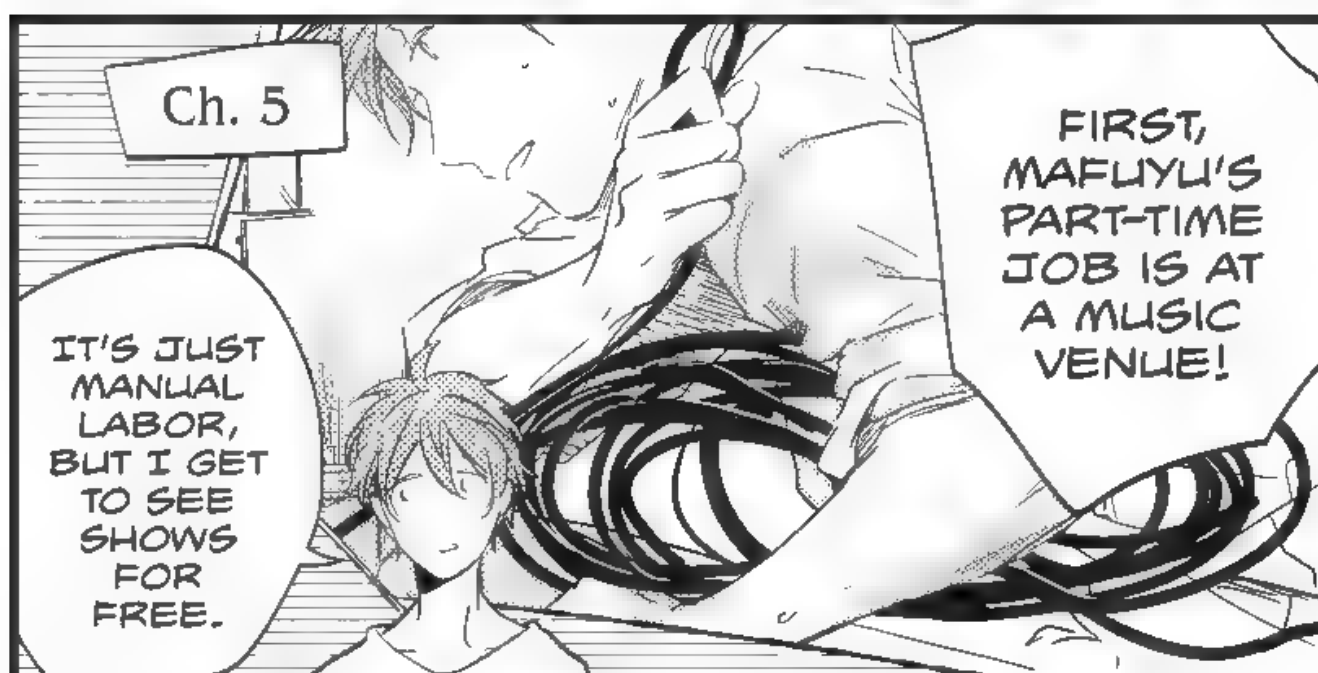
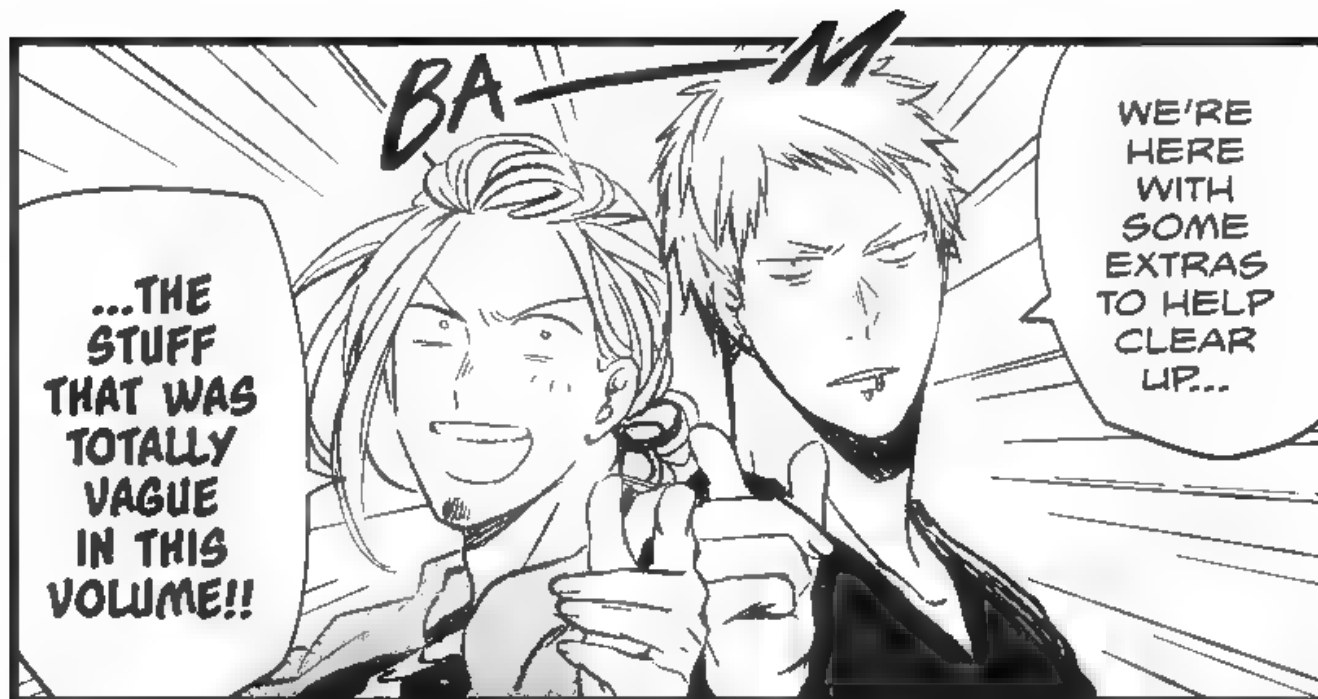
People always say "What?!
You're only 20 years old?
No way!" to this poor guy.



given

by Natsuki Kizu

Part-time Job 1

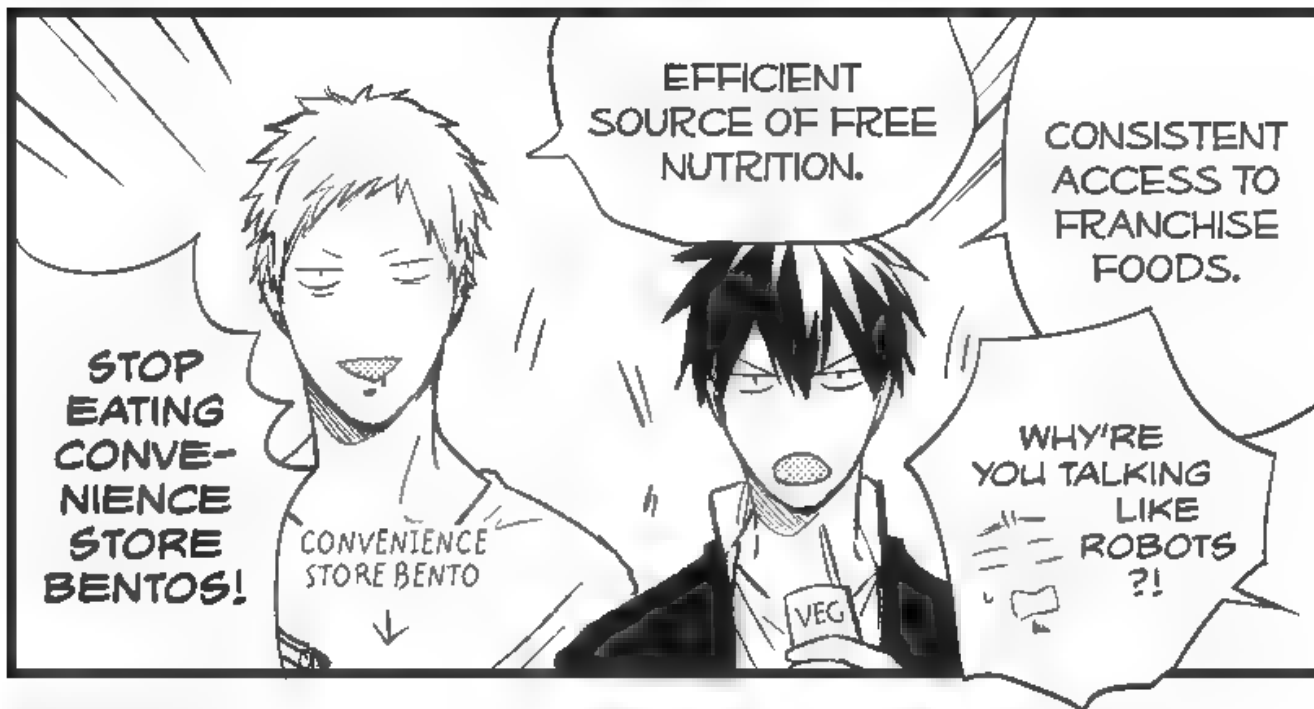


He was recc'ed by Haruki.



(Would have given his life to see.)

Part-time Job 2



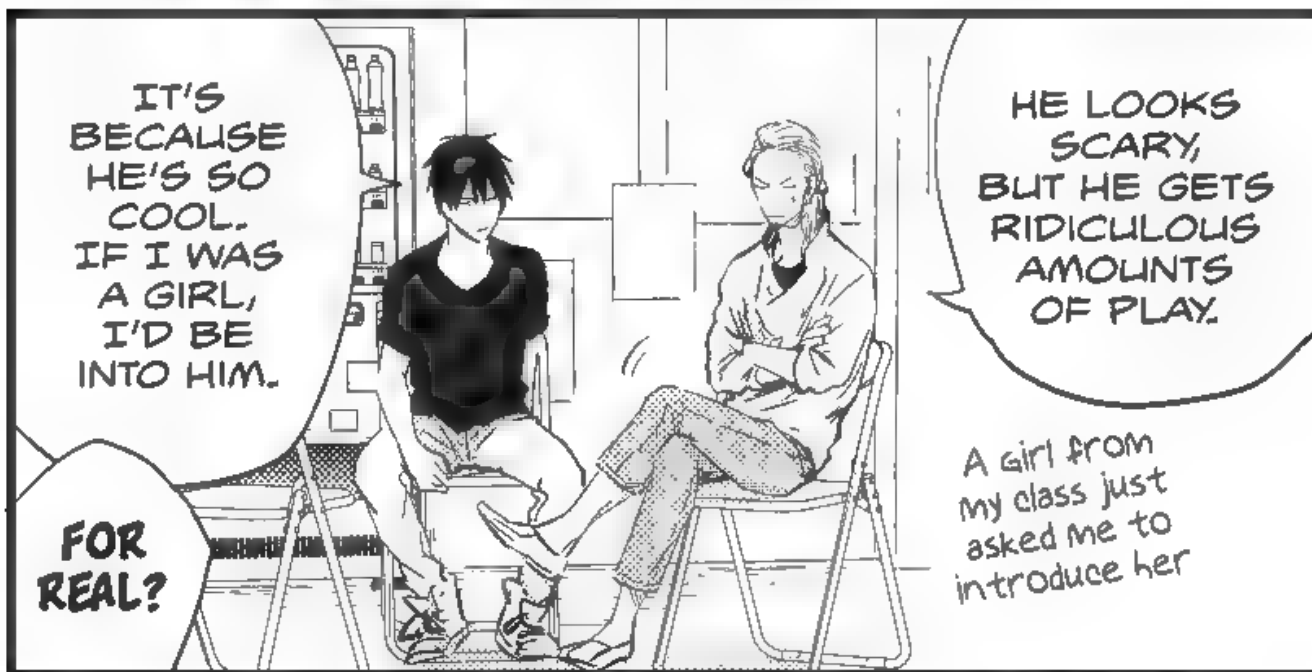
Haruki: "Uecchi, do you want rock-hard muscles too?"

Music and Friendship



He's not really a metalhead.

Questions for the Band

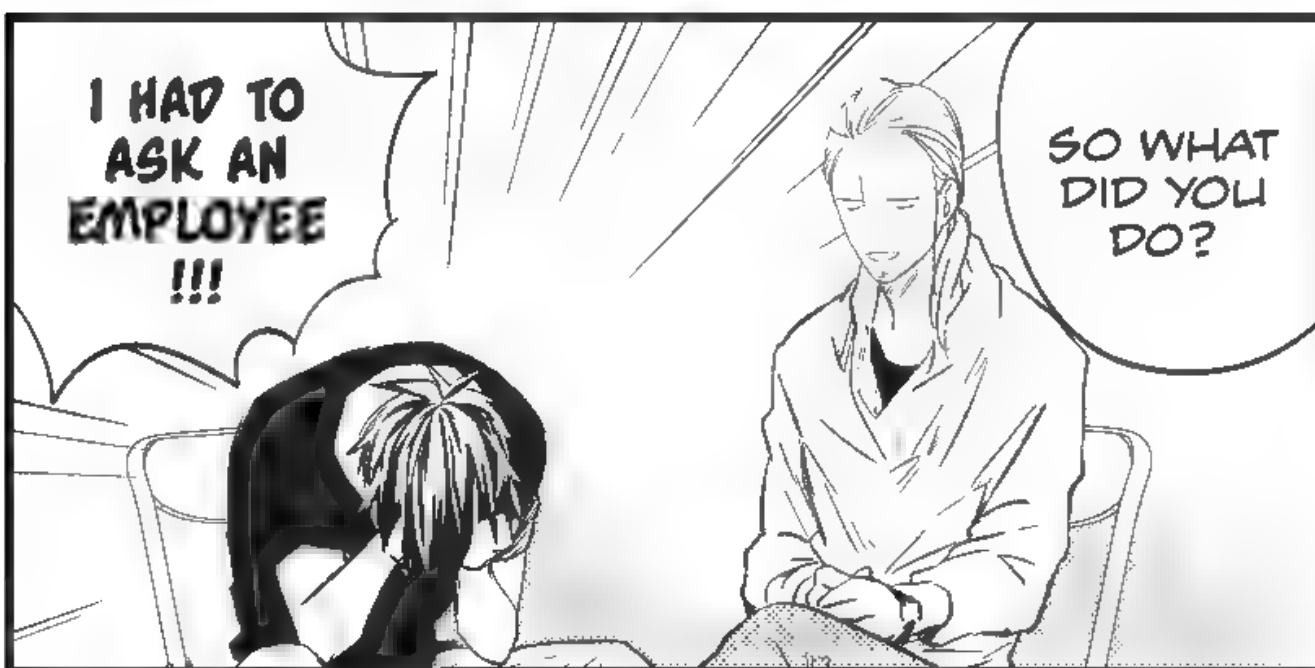


Immunity



"I want a little brother."

Little Brother Power




Both have older sisters.



postscript

I was walking and thinking about all the things I've gained and all the things I've lost in order to finally get here. Thanks so much to all those involved.

2014 

Supervising Editor & Assistance: Tamura-san (god), Daisuke (music advisor), H-kun (guitar advisor), Ayaka (research and support), the music venues (on-site research)

Special Thanks: Eiri Hayashi, Kitaura, Rin

Girls' Version

I get comments that the girls have a sloppier style.

Kasai

Waka

Hair can be dyed as long as the color is reasonable.

Sweatshirts and/or cardigans are okay.

The cardigan isn't part of the uniform, so students wear their own.

Blazer is double-breasted.

Winter Uniform

Socks can be any color or style.

In-school shoes are uniform.

Perms are okay.

Nails can be done as long as they're not too glitzy.

Piercings for girls are okay (as long as they're not extreme).

Makeup is okay.

Ribbon ties are mandatory.

Summer Uniform

Uniform has a vest (optional). Non-uniform vests aren't allowed. Blouse collar can be worn closed or open.

Skirt length depends on the individual.

Tights are okay (but can't have a pattern).

No rules for outside shoes.



Extras

About Uenoyama and Mafuyu's High School

Boys' Version



Sloppy...



T-shirt under school uniform jacket is okay.



For school ceremonies.

Hair styles can be different, depending on club membership.



Hosokai

Basketball club jersey

Piercing okay

Not great, but t-shirt under cardigan is okay too.

Itaya

Very Casual
T-shirt + sport club jersey
(In other words, no sign of the official school uniform.)

But no uniform is better than a sloppy uniform, so he isn't demerited as much.

T-shirt is a club shirt or one of his own.

Own watch

This is a private school where the standard score is 60 points or more over prep school. The motto is "Excellence in mind and body."

...each other.

Ueki

Standard uniform + club bag

Own bag

The school encourages their students to be independent. Academically it may not be at the top but it tends to attract unique personalities.

Has a reputation as a strong sports school. Some of the clubs are nationally ranked.

About the Author

Natsuki Kizu made her professional debut in 2013 with *Yukimura Sensei and Kei-kun*, followed by the short story collection *Links* and her breakout series, *Given*, which has been adapted into drama CDs and an animated TV series. To find out more about her works, you can follow her on Twitter at [@kizu_ntk](https://twitter.com/kizu_ntk).

Given

Volume 1

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

GIVEN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.

SUBLIME

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